

MOTHER TERESA

"In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love." - Mother Teresa

It was on a train from Calcutta (now called Kolkata) to Darjeeling, that Mother Teresa first heard the call. A voice beckoned her to leave the sheltered life of the convent and come out to serve the poorest of the poor. That voice changed her life completely and also the lives of everyone she touched.

Though Albanian by birth, Mother Teresa made India her home. Humbly, yet firmly, Mother set to work trying to heal the world's greatest disease, 'of being unwanted and unloved'.

At the time of her death, the world acknowledged her as one of the most enduring symbols of love.

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VISIONARIES



MOTHER TERESA

LITTLE ACTS OF LOVE

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MOTHER TERESA



1910. THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, THAT COVERED MUCH OF THE BALKAN AREA OF EUROPE, WAS DISINTEGRATING. THERE WAS WAR EVERYWHERE AS ALBANIANS, SERBS, MACEDONIANS, CROATS, BULGARIANS, TURKS AND MANY OTHER PEOPLES FOUGHT TO CREATE THEIR OWN NATIONS.

BUT IN A HOUSE, IN THE TOWN OF SKOPJE*, THERE WAS A MOMENT OF HAPPINESS. NIKOLA AND DRANA BOJAXHIU HAD A NEW BABY GIRL.

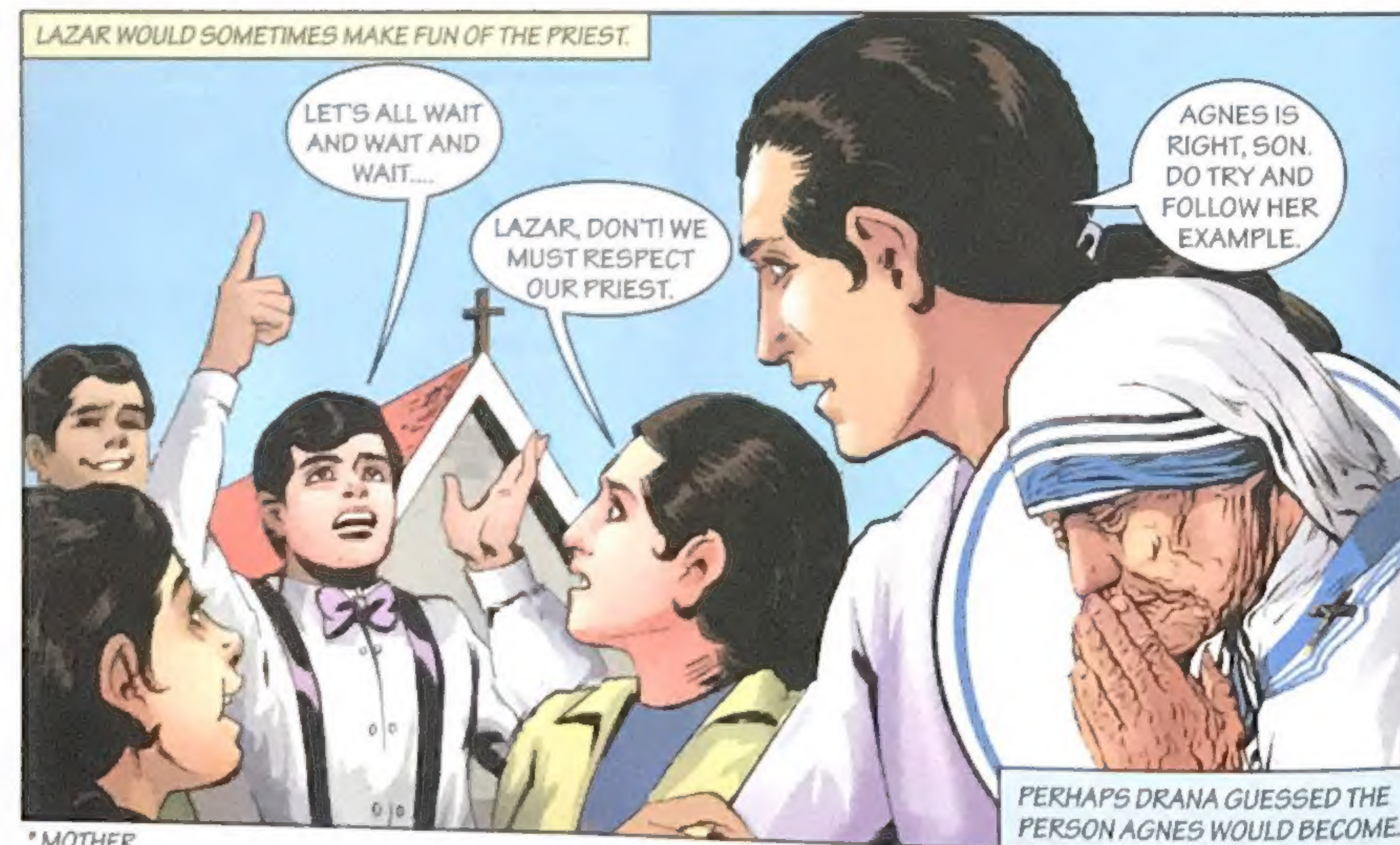
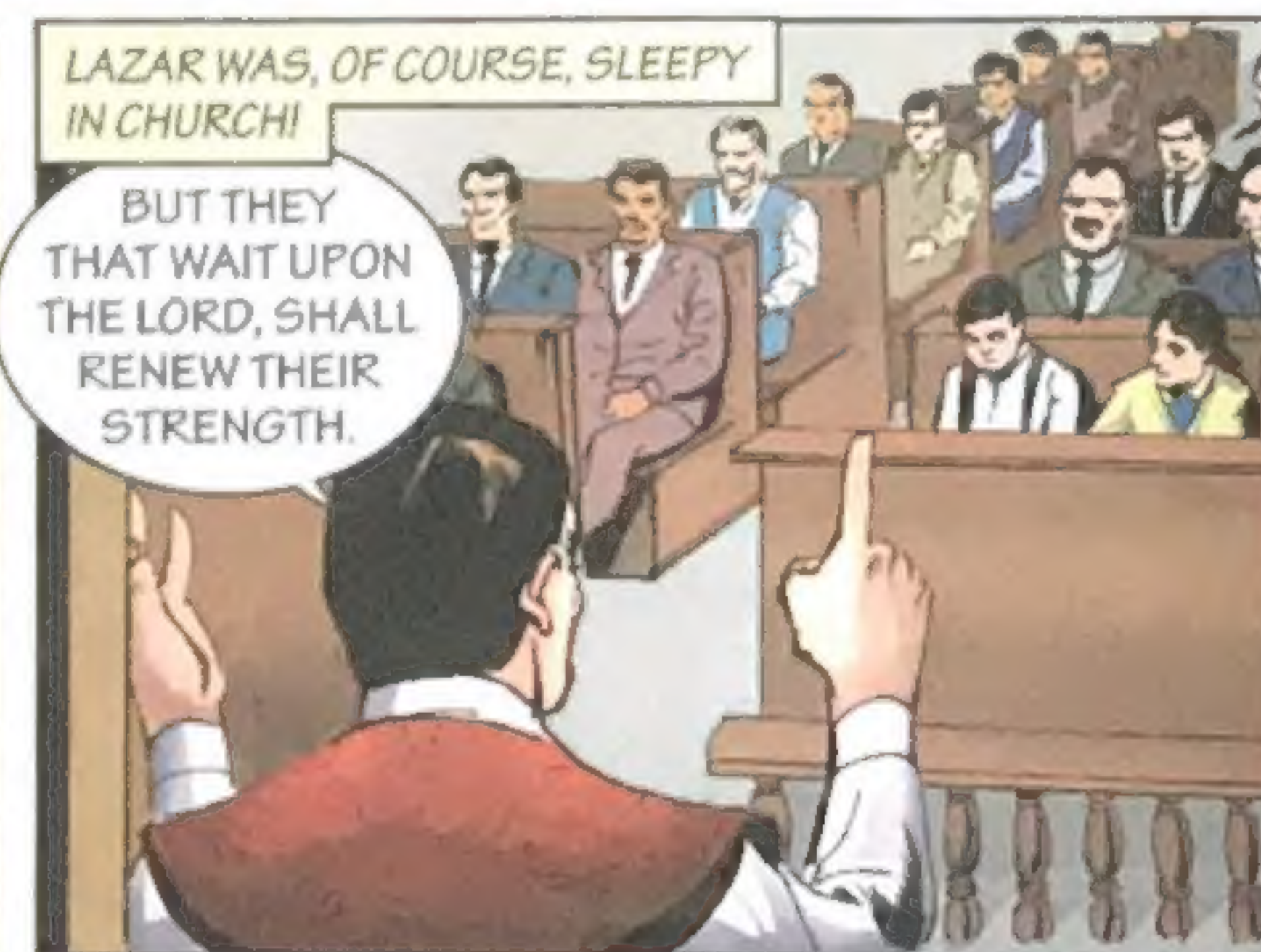


AGNES WAS A CHEERFUL CHILD. HER OLDER BROTHER AND SISTER, LAZAR AND AGE, ADORED HER.

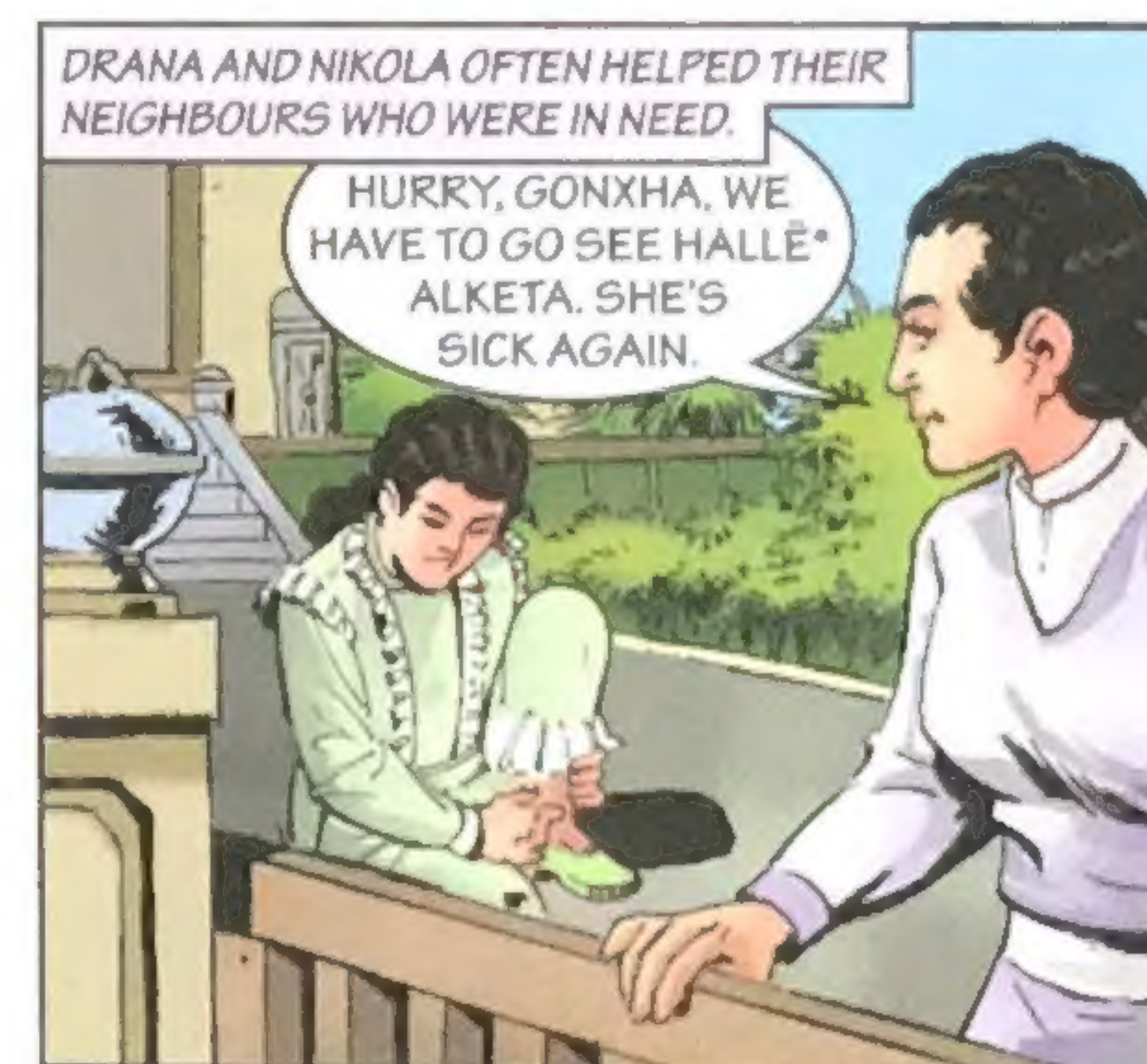
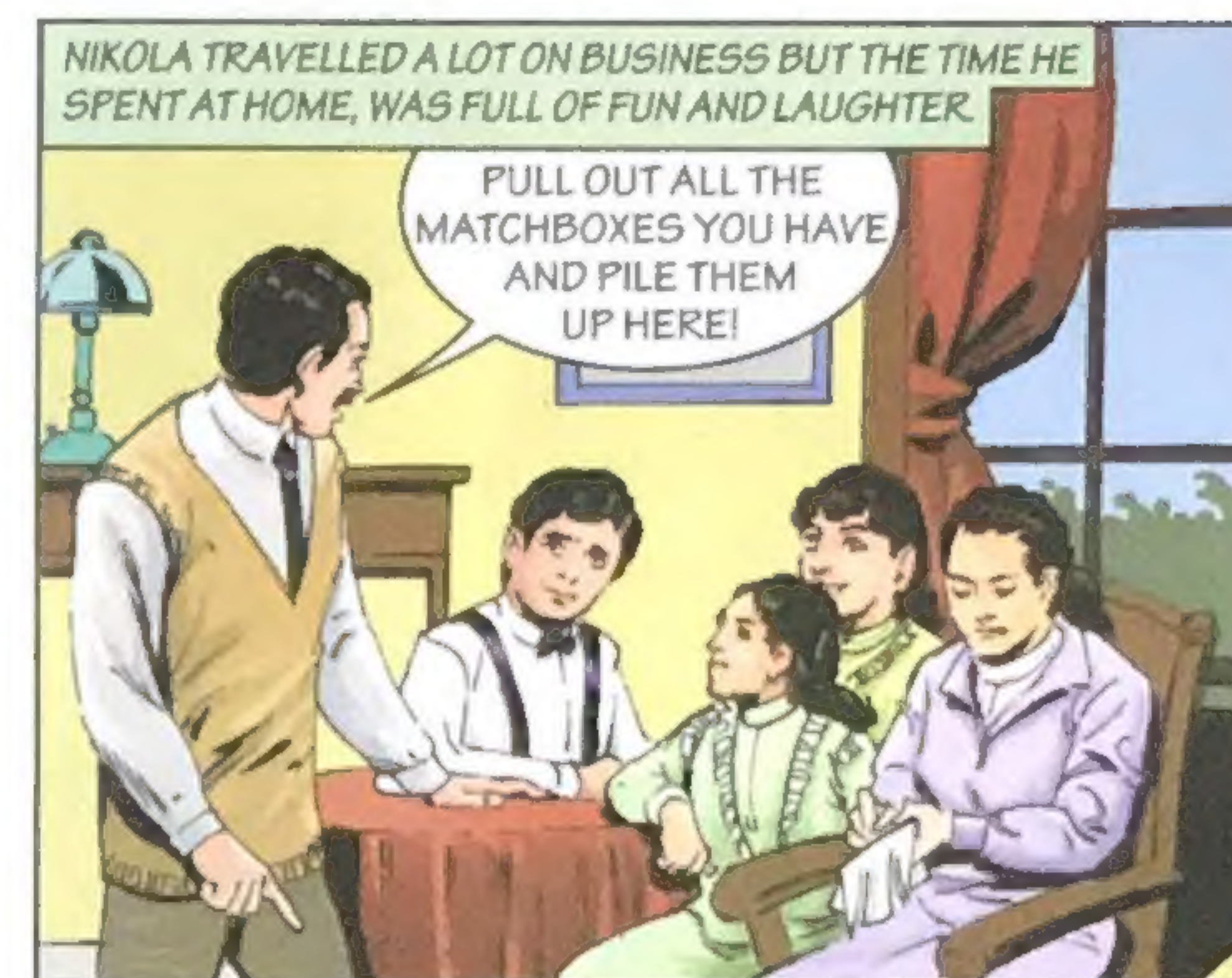


* NOW THE CAPITAL OF MACEDONIA.

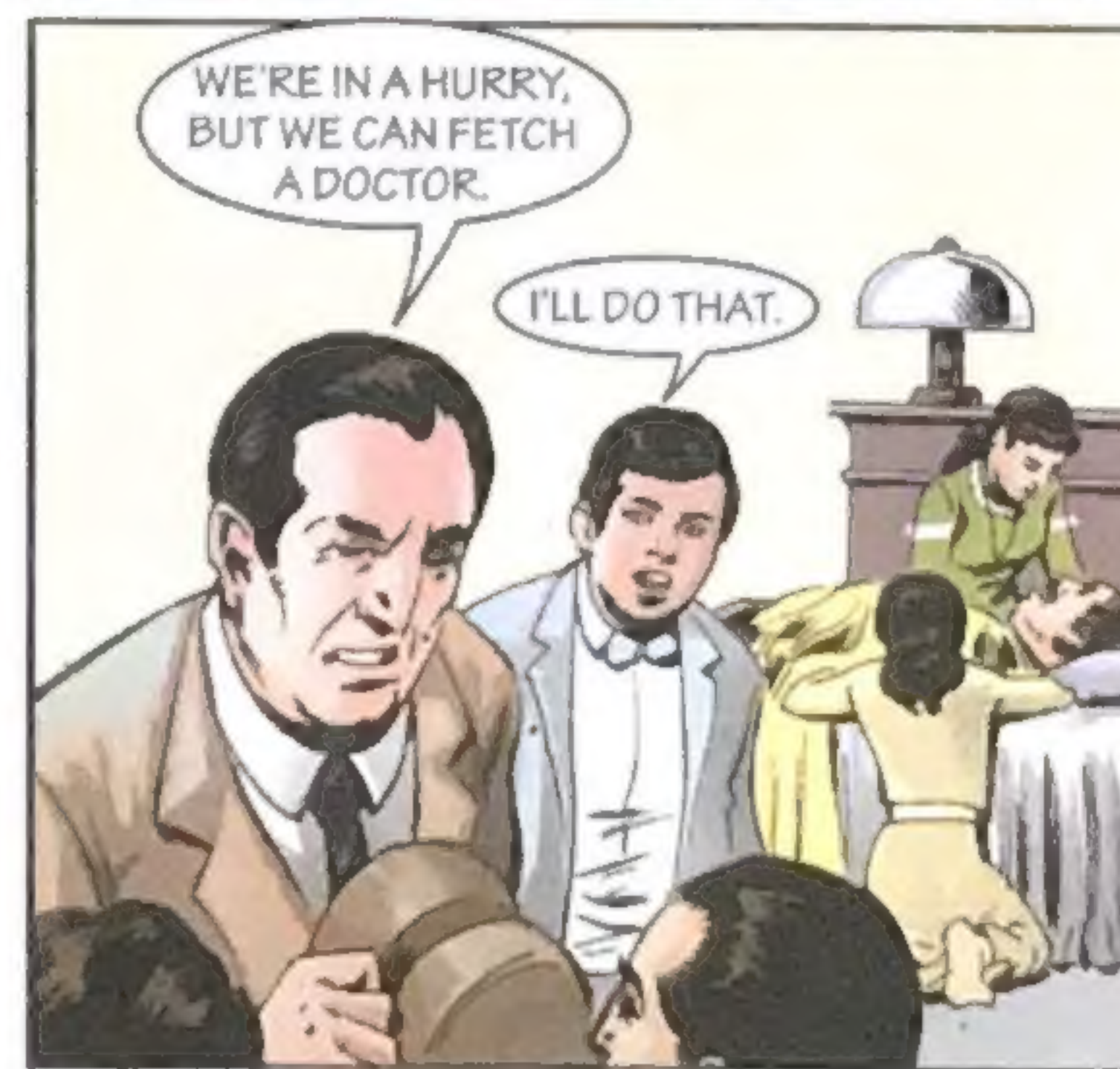
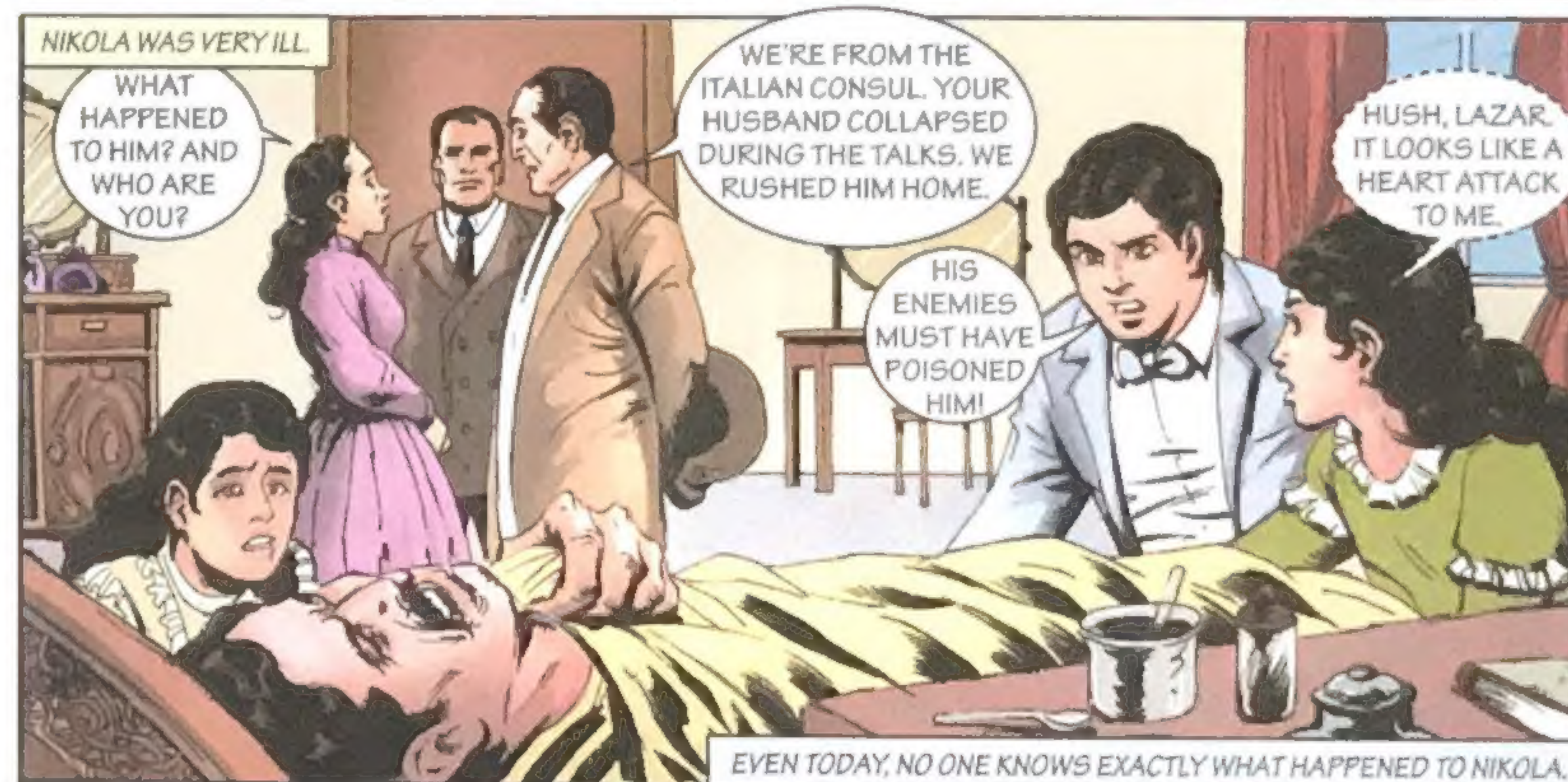
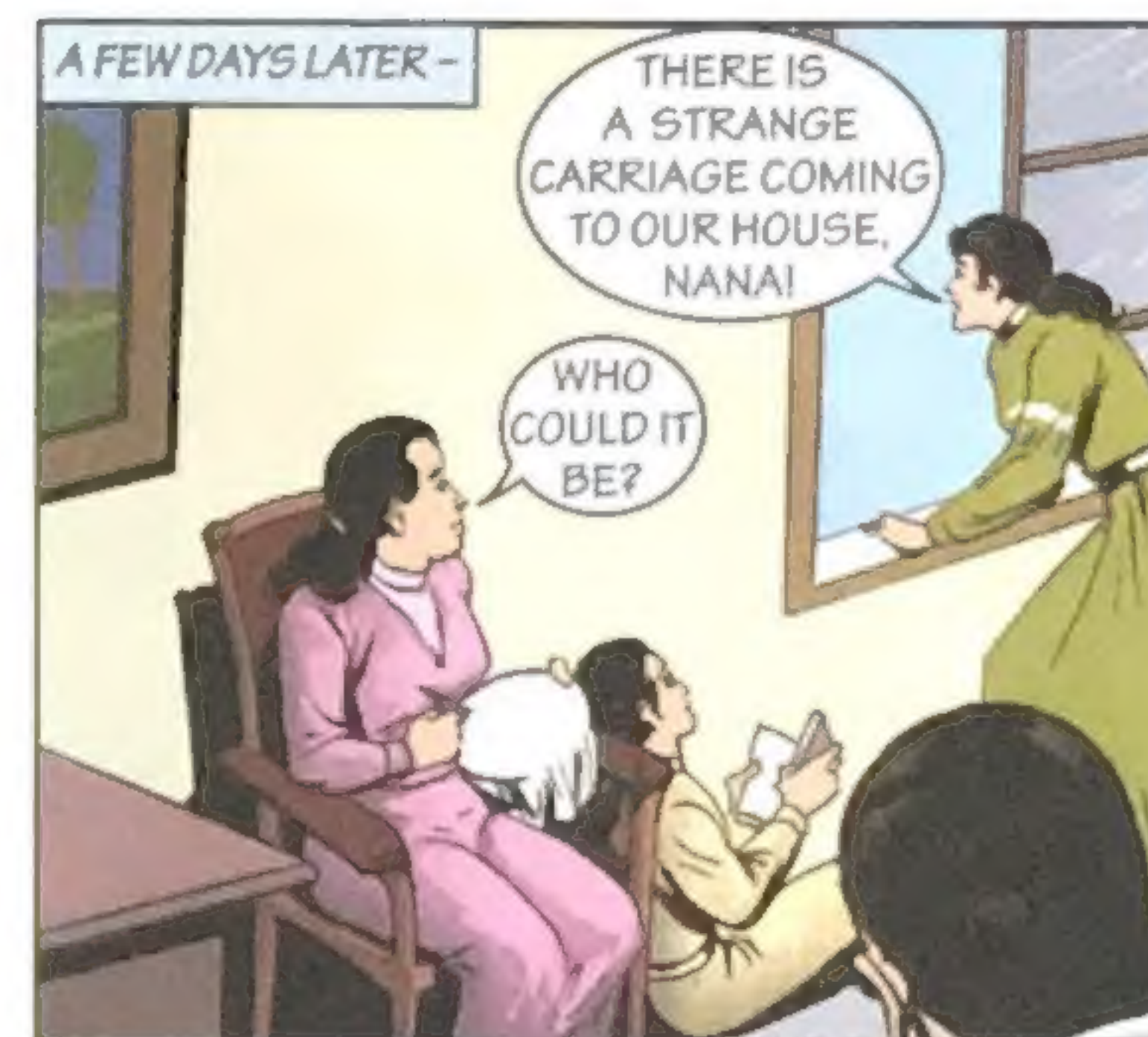
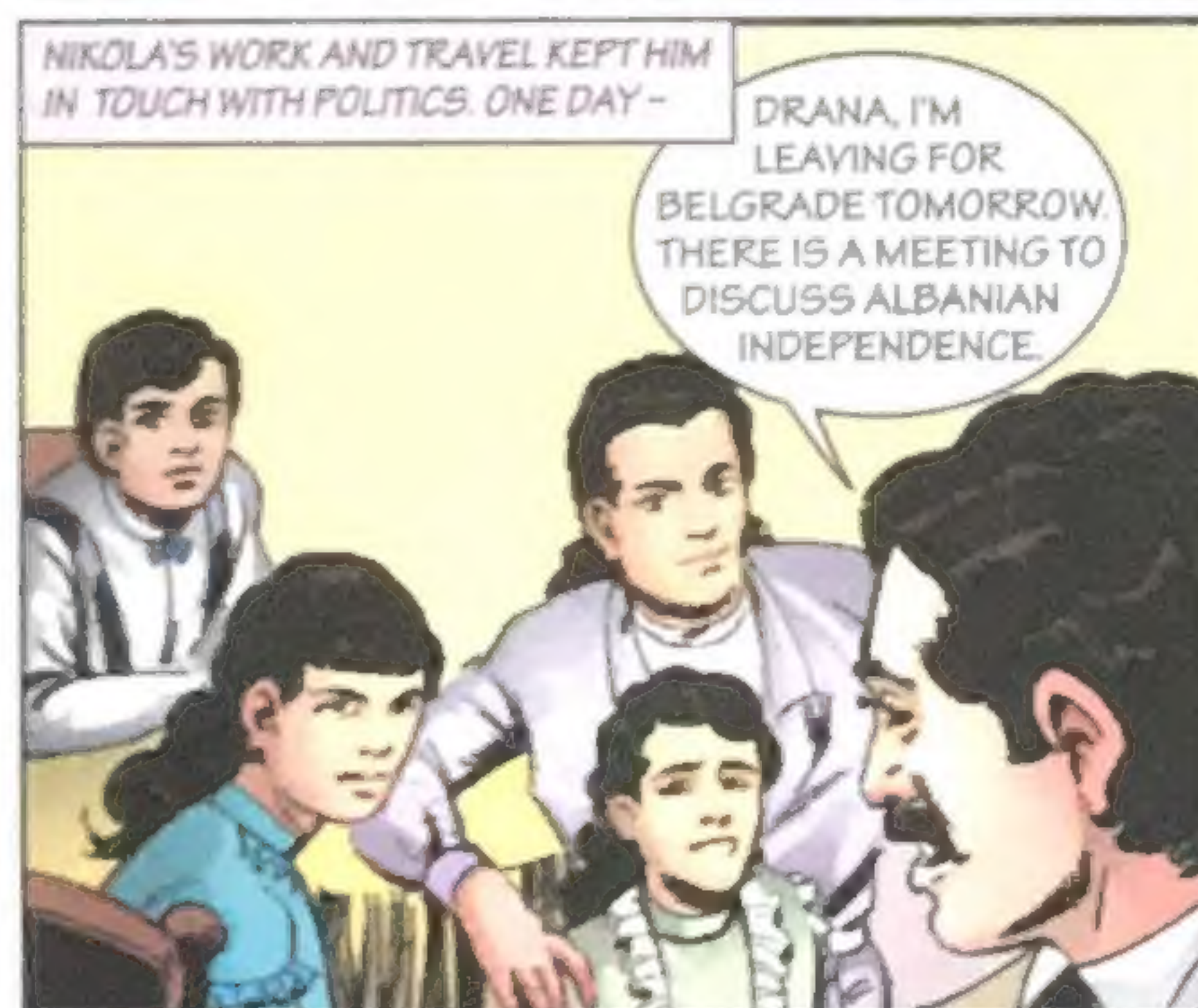
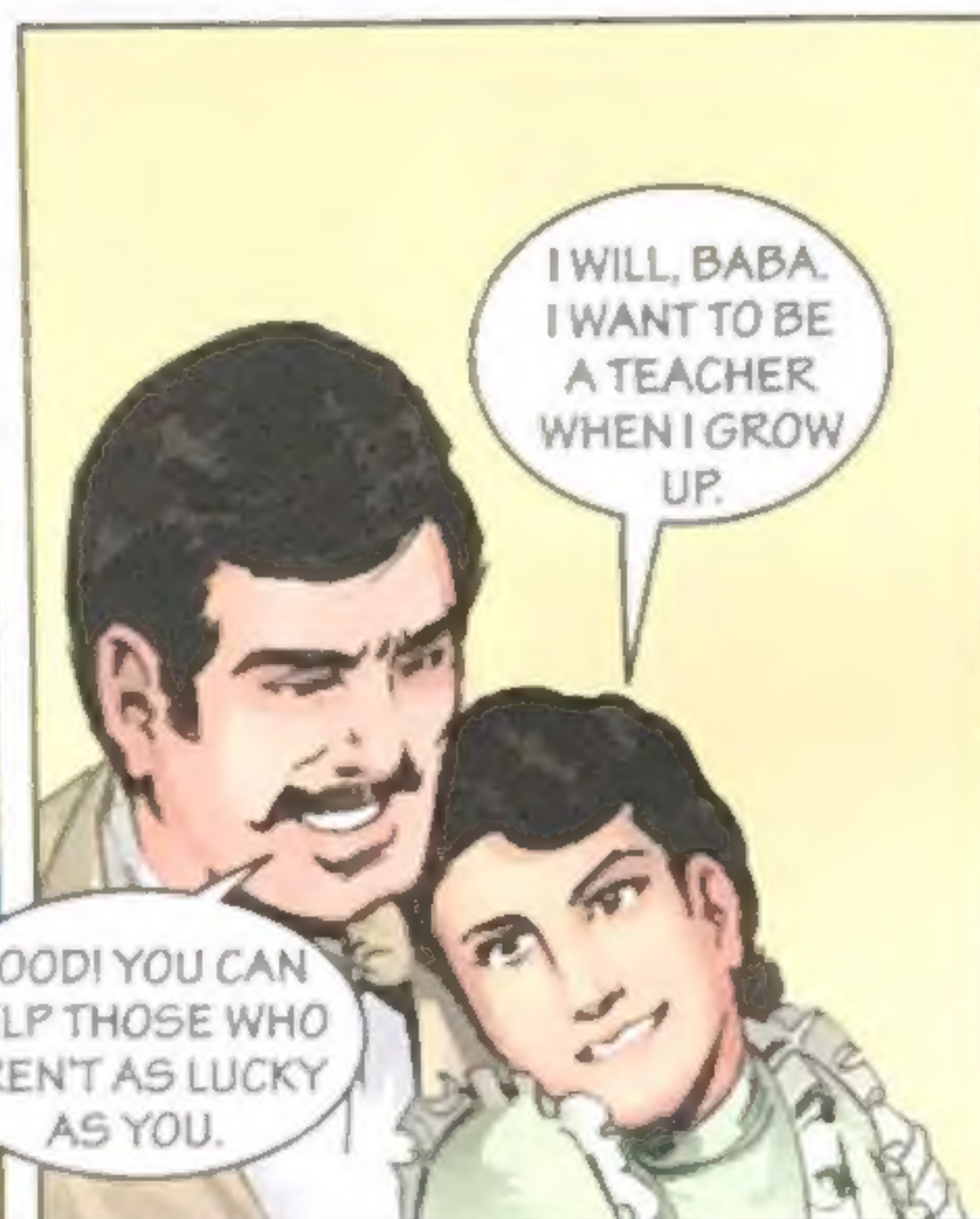
† AGNES'S PET NAME. PRONOUNCED GOHN-JAY. IT MEANS ROSEBUD.

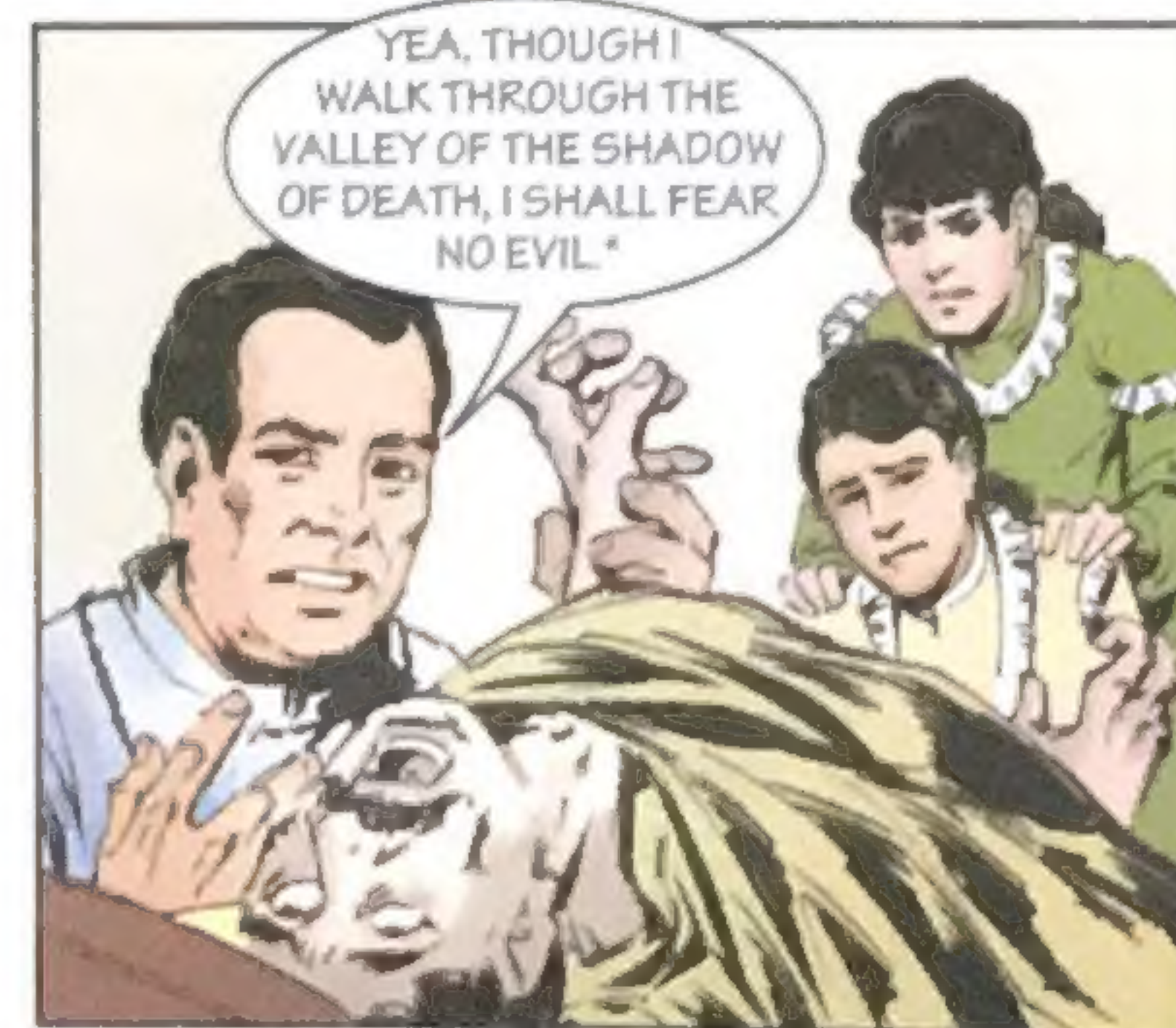


* MOTHER

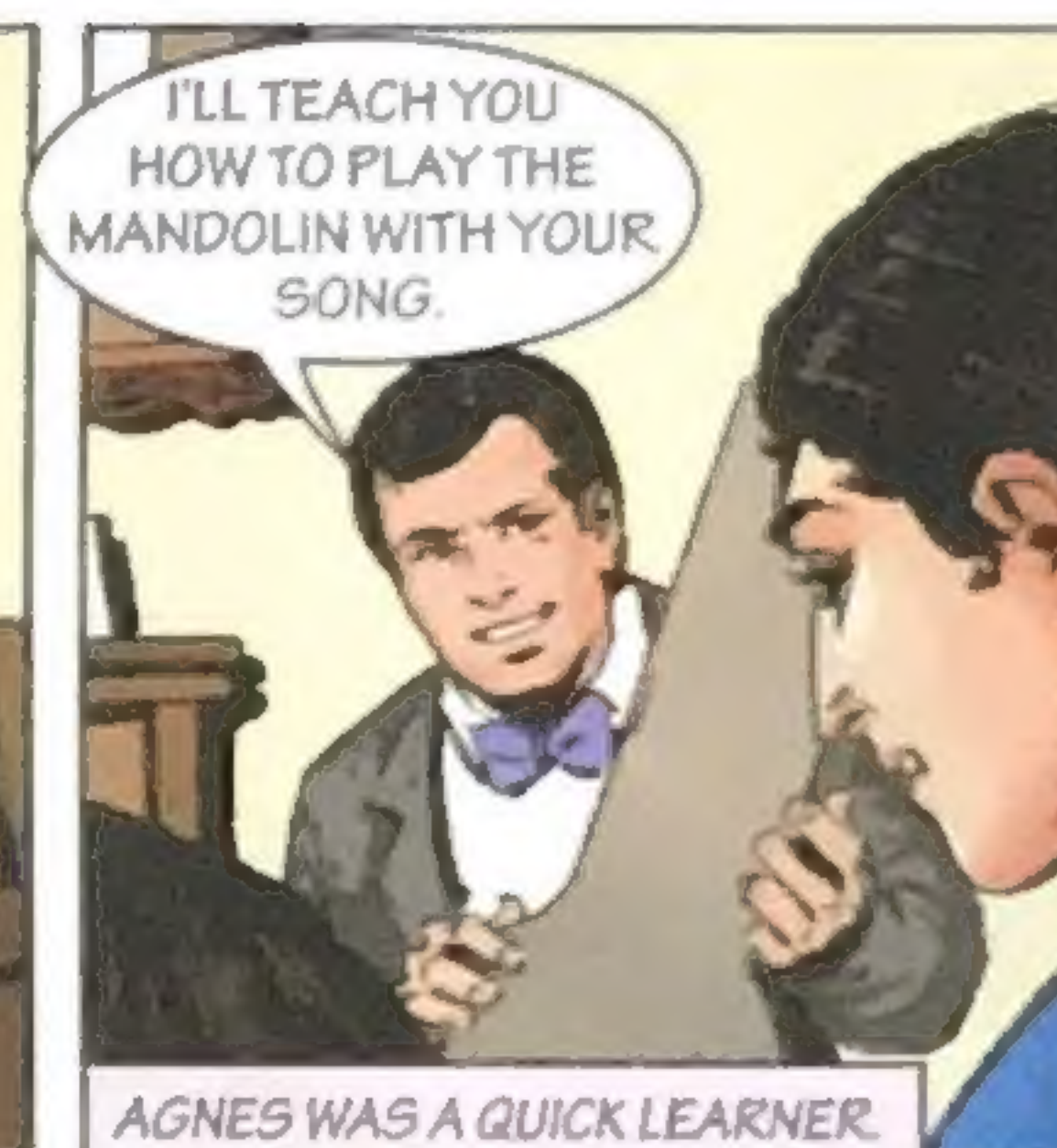
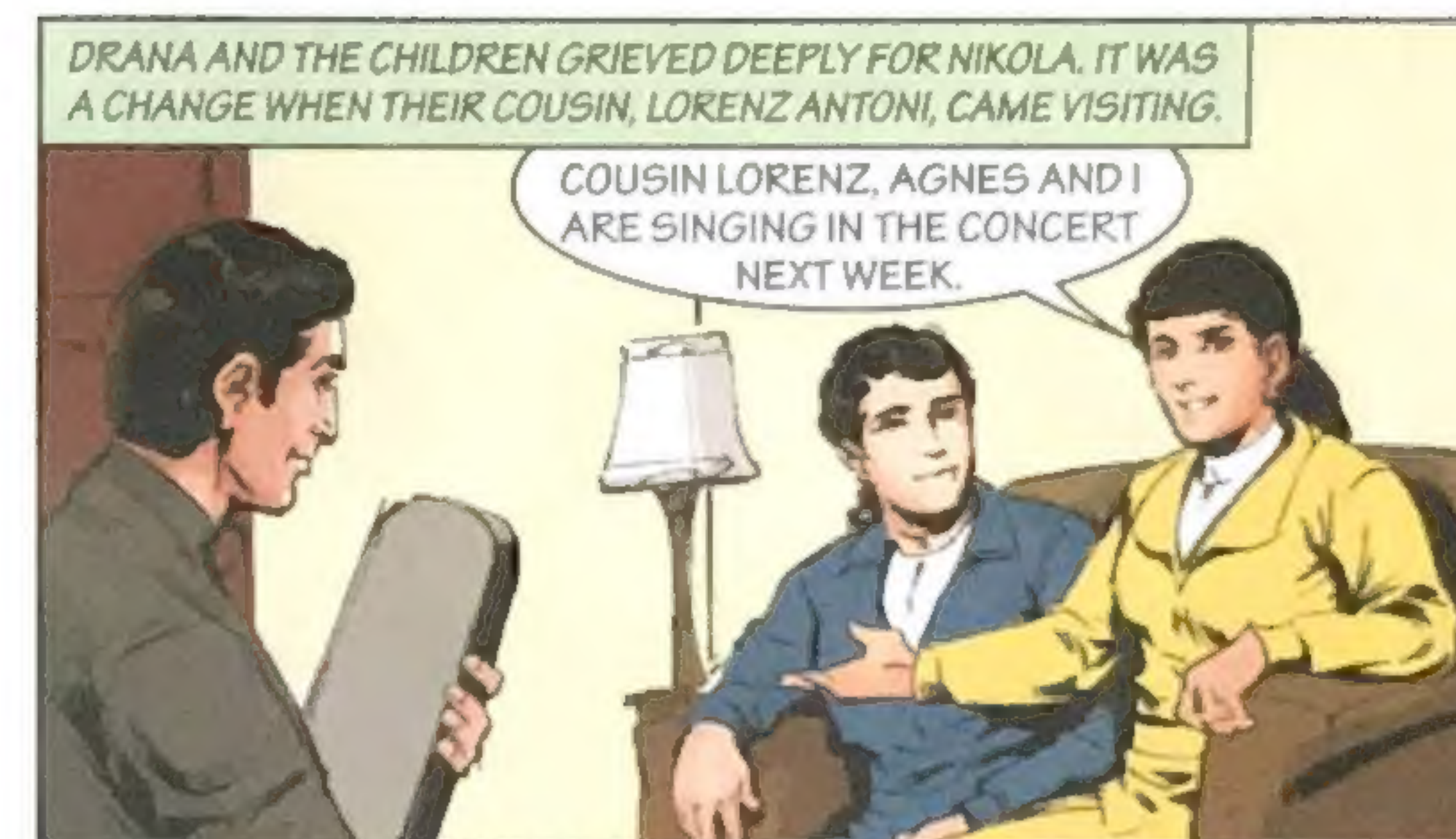
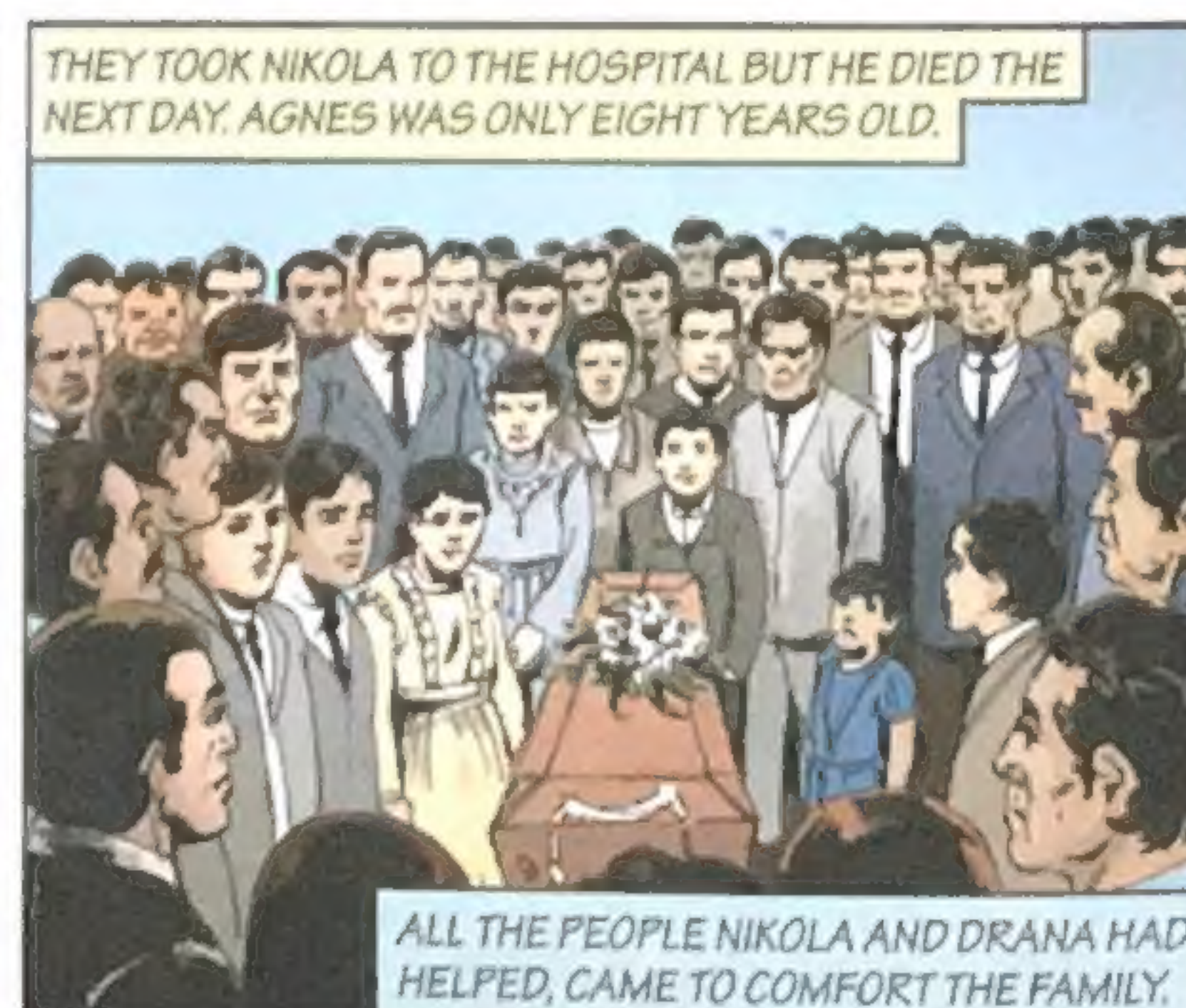


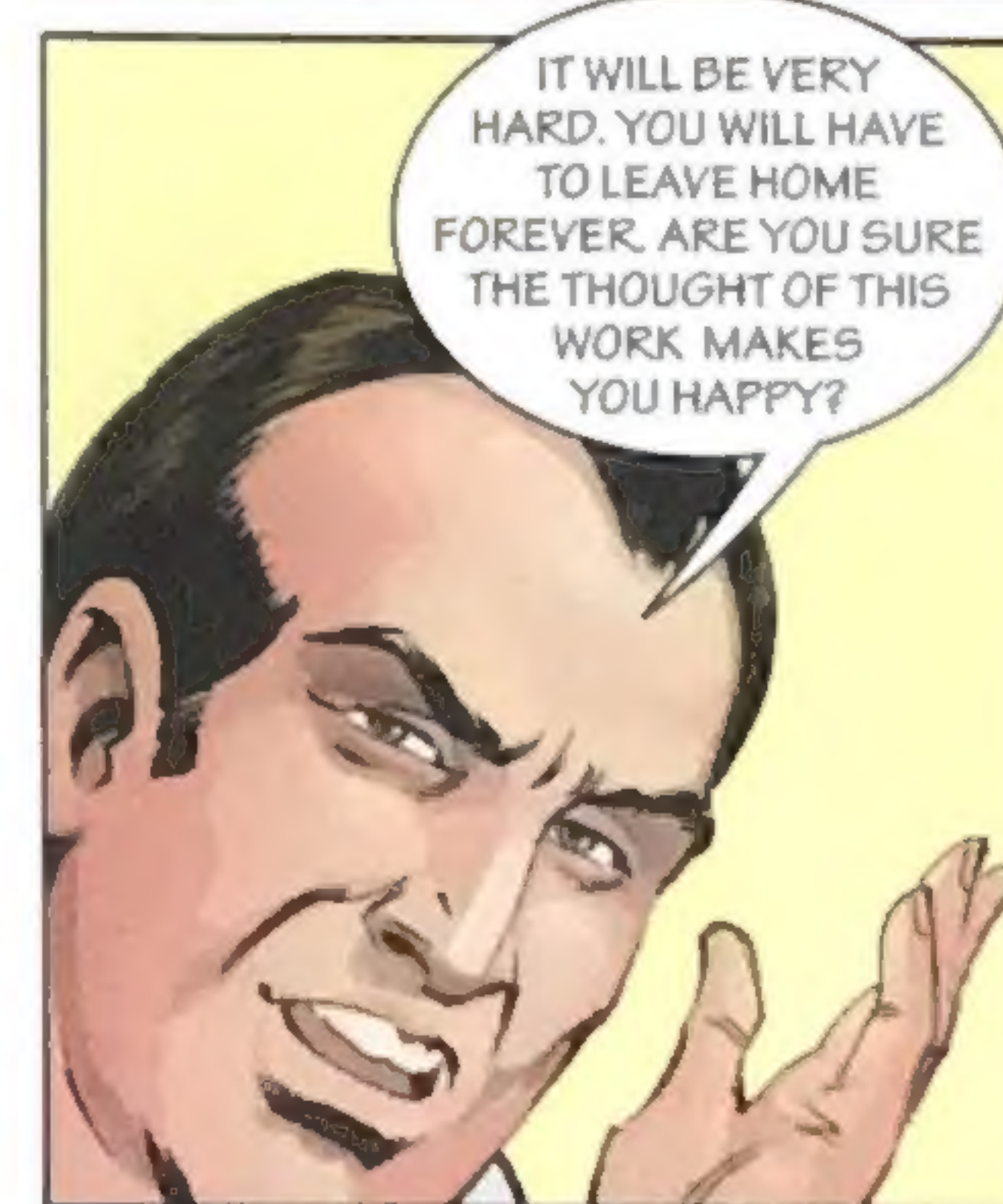
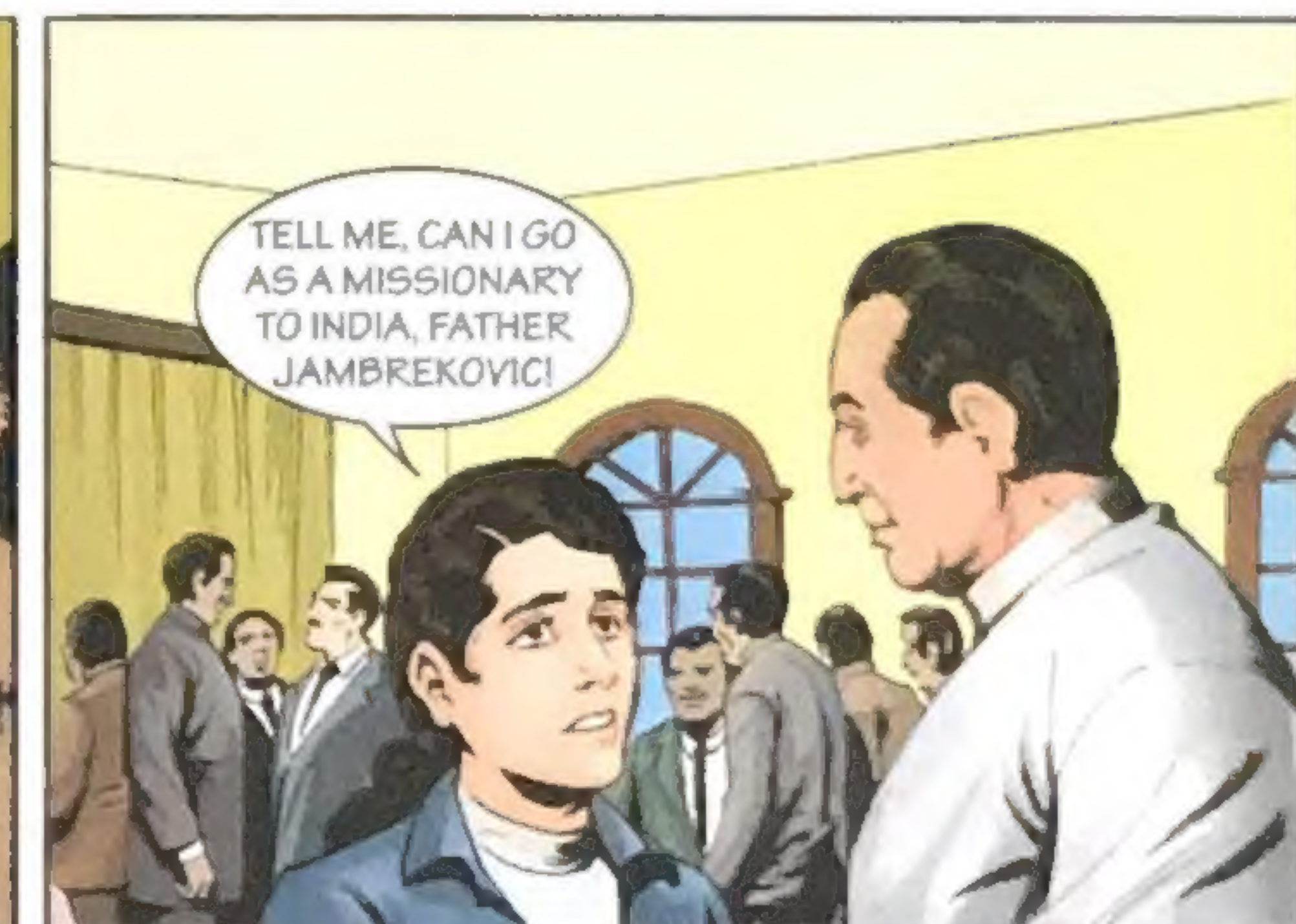
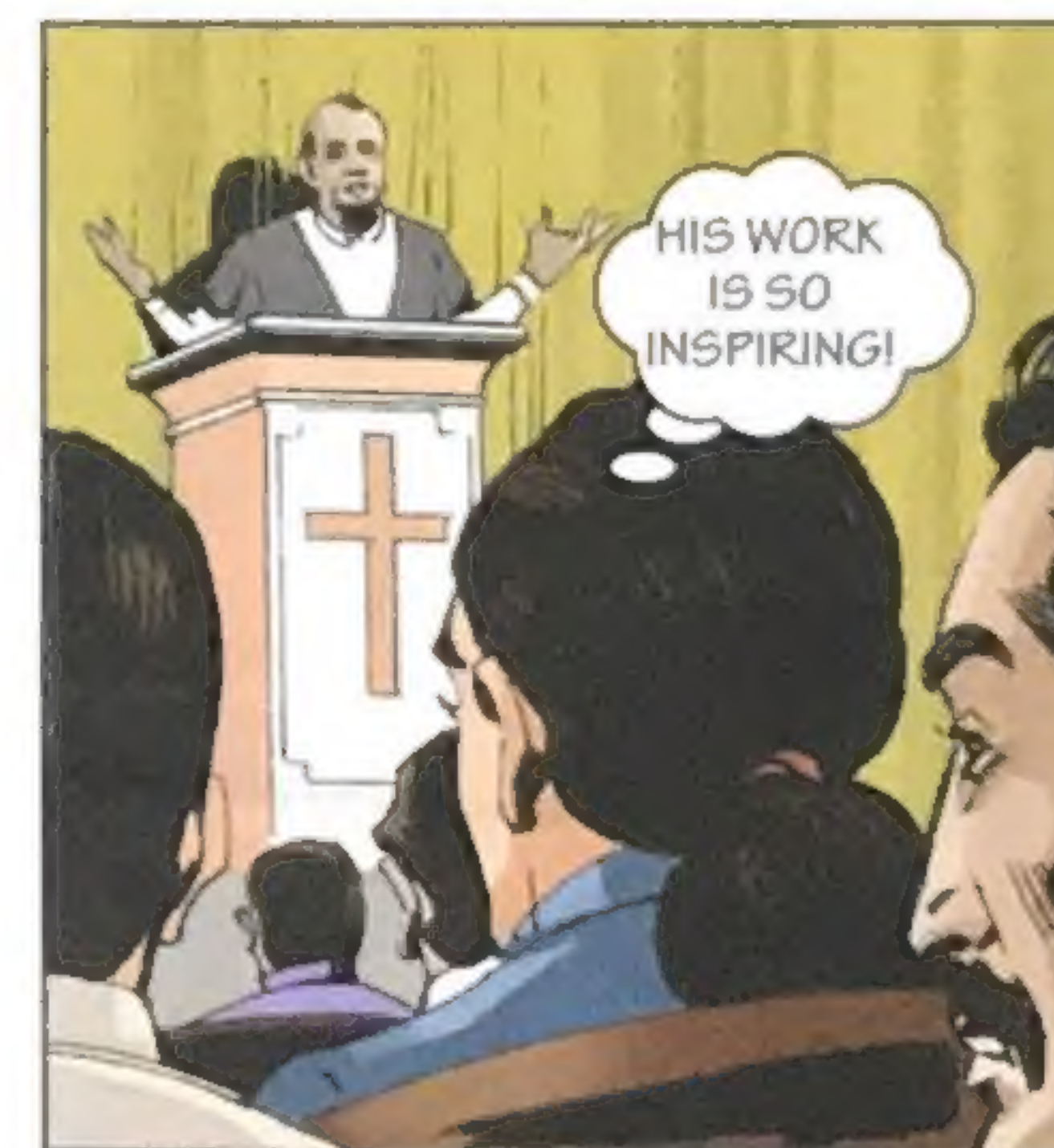
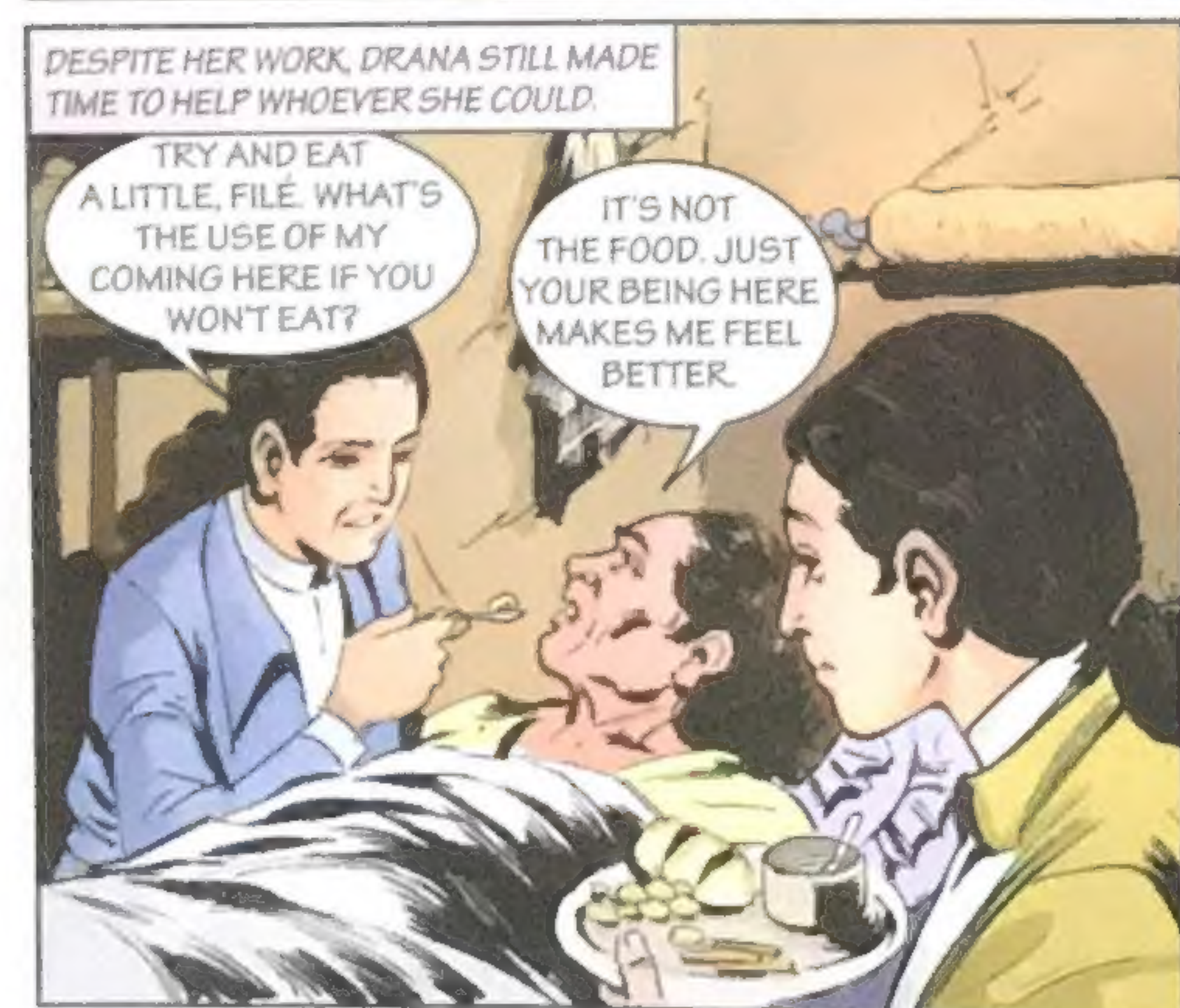
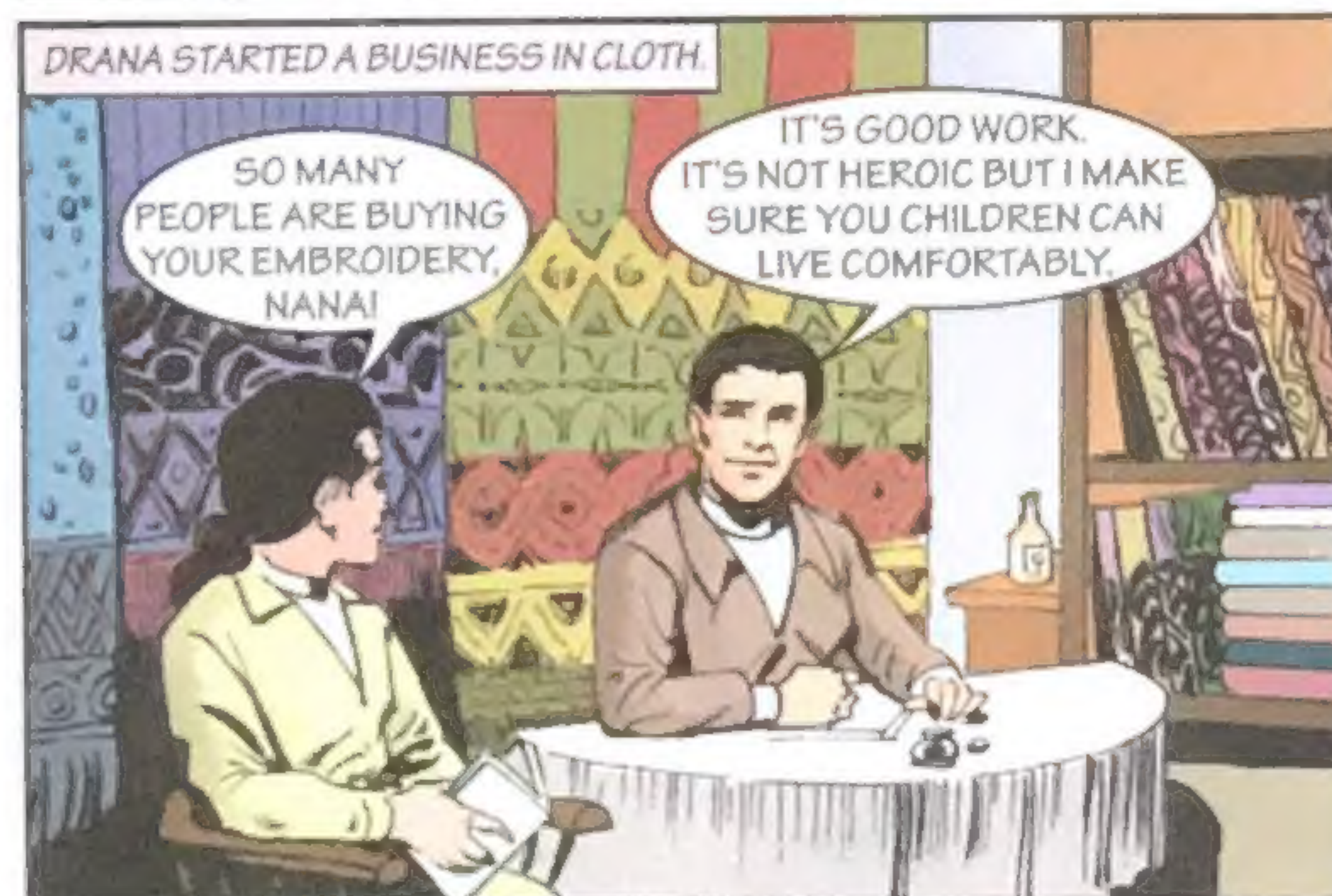
*SIMILAR TO 'AUNTY'



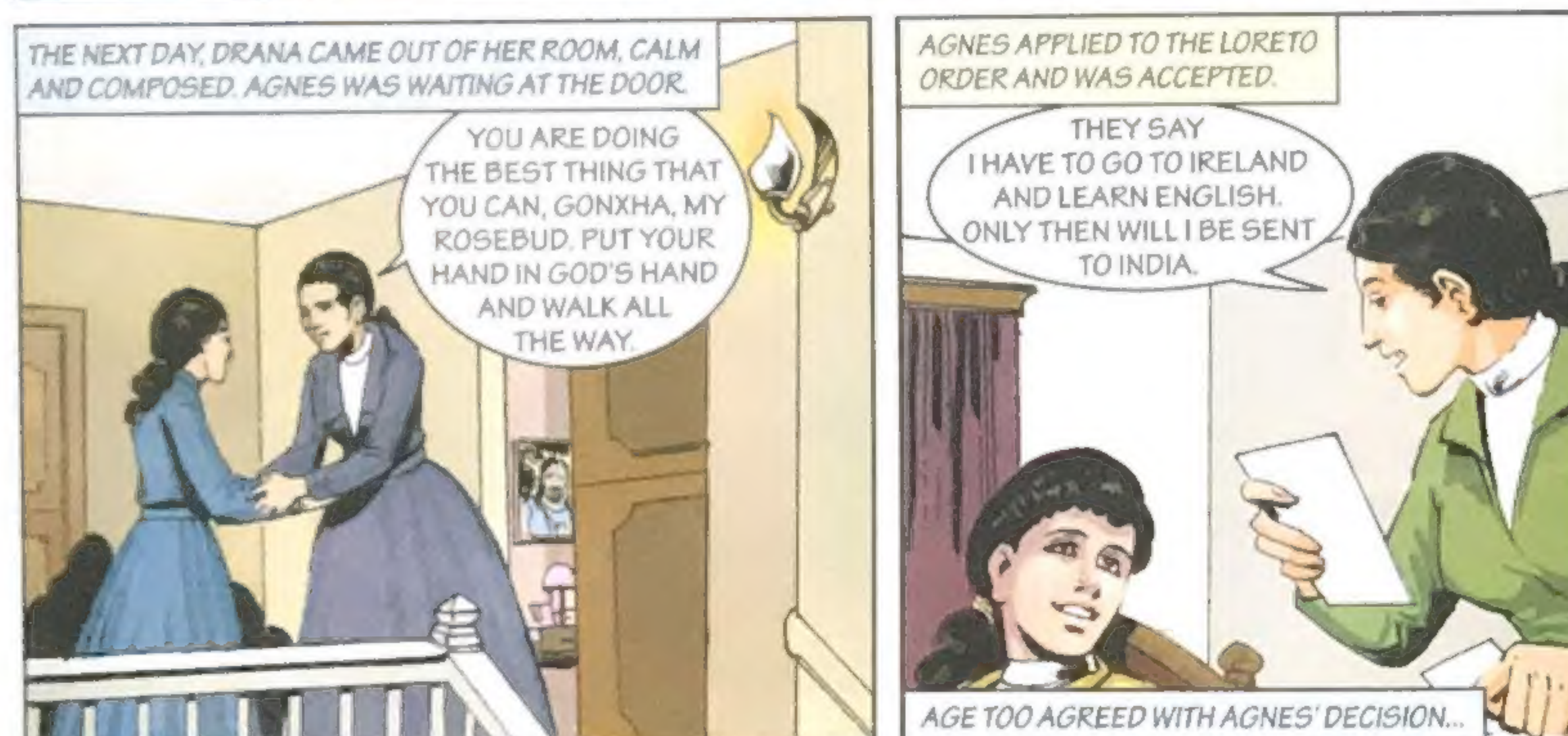


* A LINE FROM THE BIBLE.

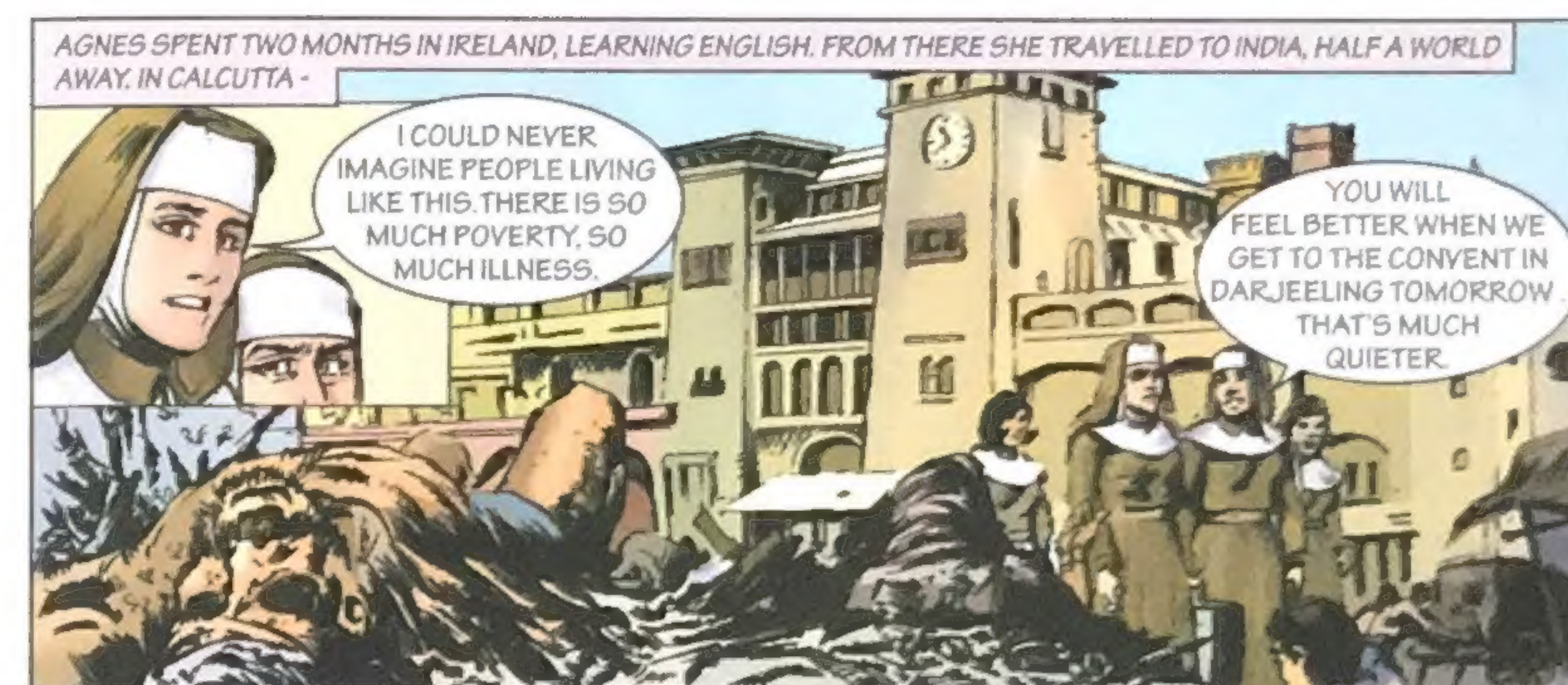


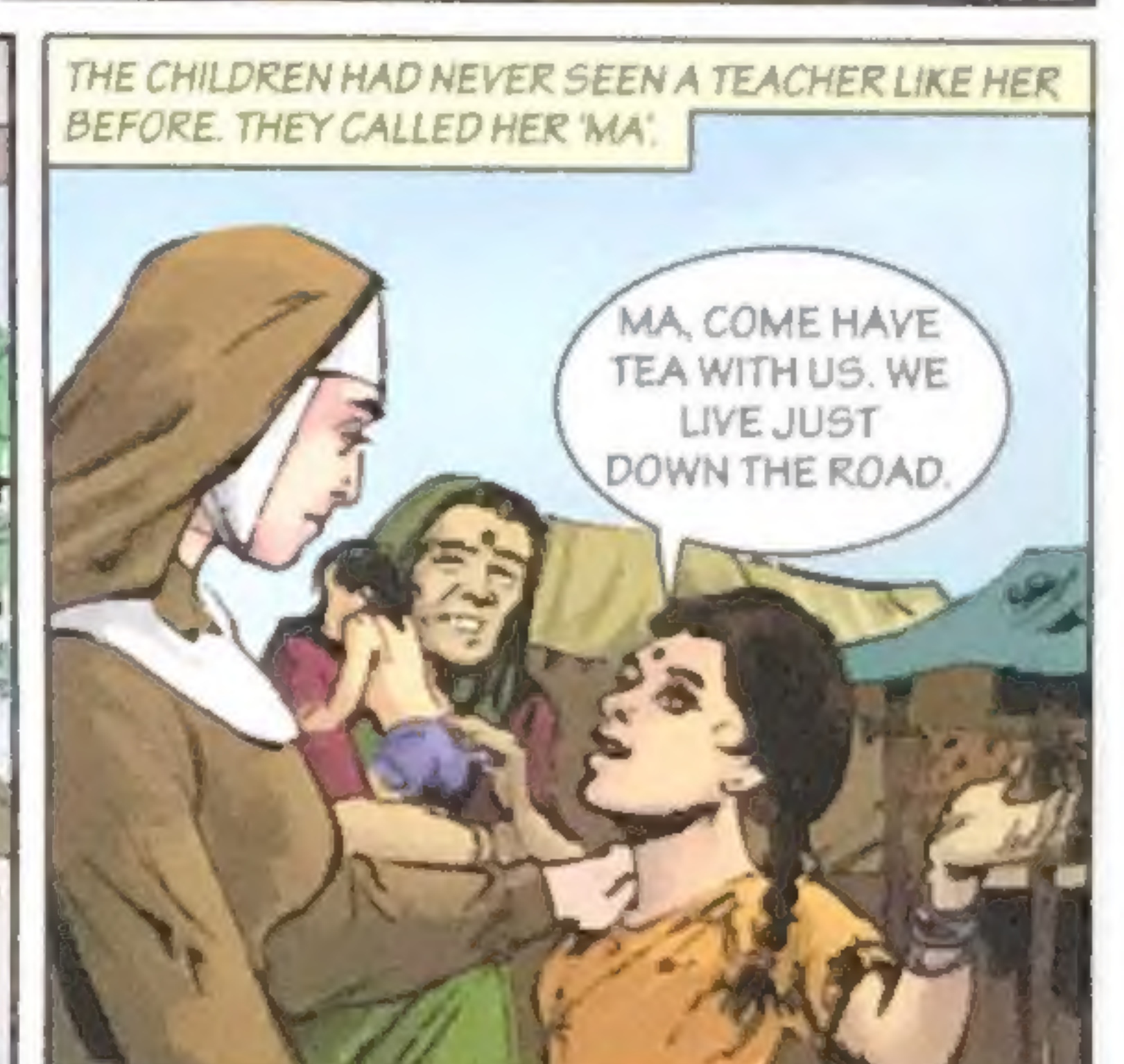
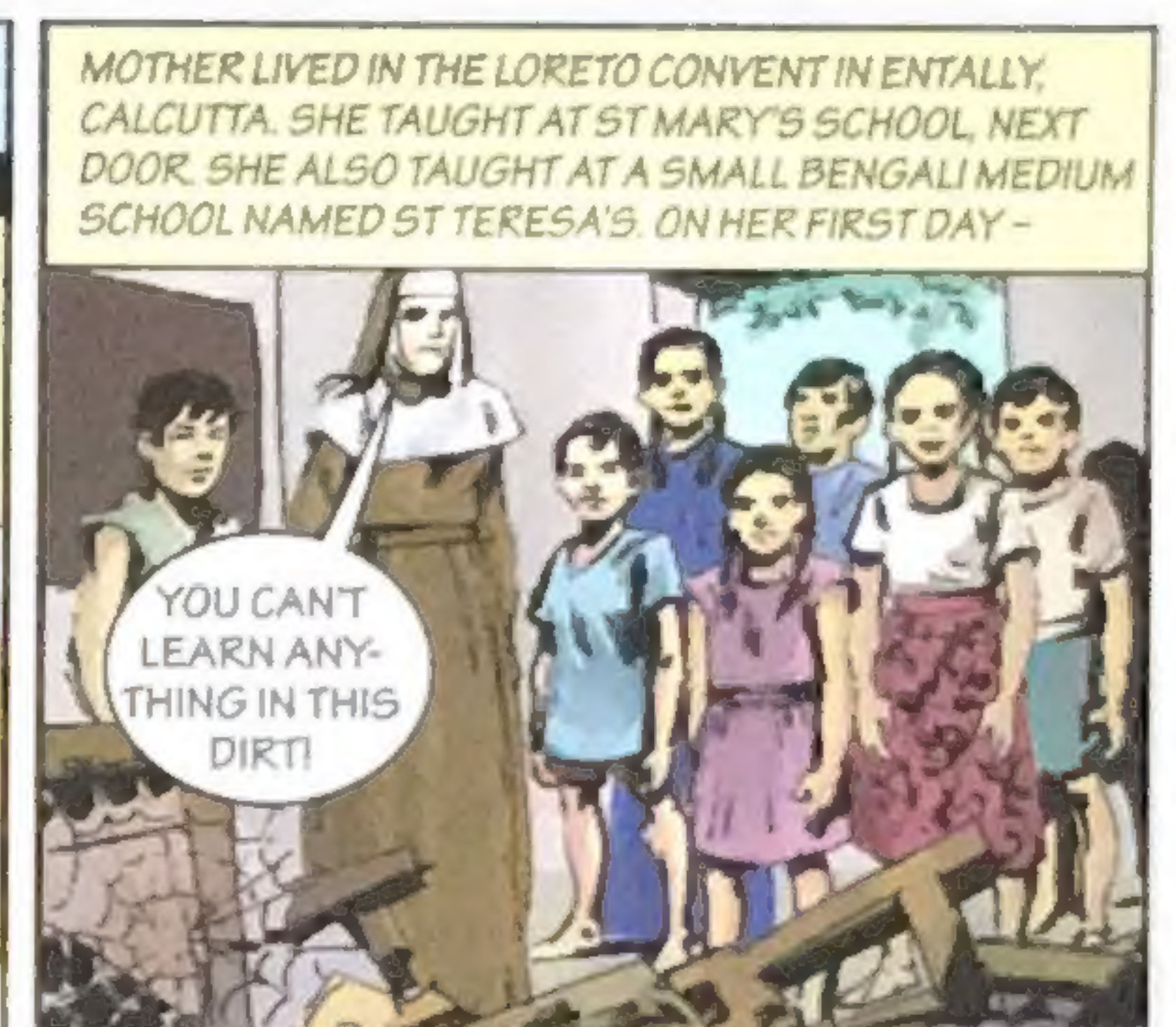
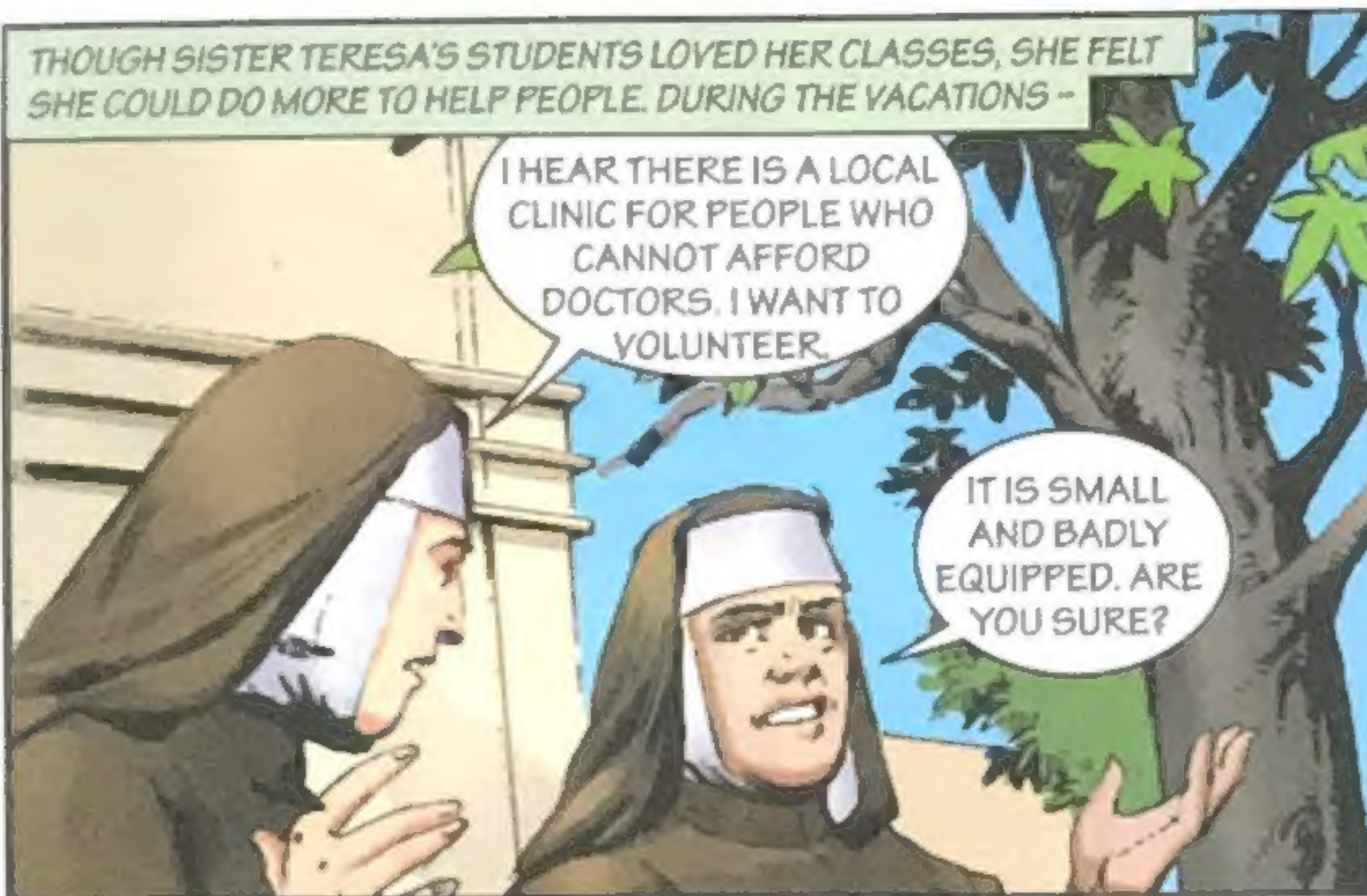


*A MISSIONARY IS ONE WHO IS SENT TO DO RELIGIOUS OR CHARITABLE WORK IN ANOTHER COUNTRY OR TERRITORY.



*AGNES LIKED TO CALL HER MOTHER 'NANA LOKE', MEANING 'MOTHER OF MY HEART'. LEAVING DRANA WAS ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS SHE HAD TO DO.





OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, MOTHER BECAME MORE AND MORE ABSORBED IN THE WORK AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL. SHE STILL KEPT HEARING ABOUT HOW TERRIBLE LIFE WAS OUTSIDE THE CONVENT. WORLD WAR II WAS GOING ON. IN NEIGHBOURING BURMA, THE BRITISH FOUGHT THE JAPANESE AND REFUGEES POURED INTO CALCUTTA.



IN 1942-43, A CYCLONE HIT BENGAL, DESTROYING MANY OF THE CROPS.

THE BRITISH ARE TAKING RICE FROM INDIA TO FEED THEIR SOLDIERS. PEOPLE WILL STARVE! WE MUST DO SOMETHING.

WHAT CAN WE DO? BESIDES, IT MAY NOT BE SAFE FOR US TO GO OUTSIDE.



MOTHER TERESA COULD NOT STAND BY WITHOUT TRYING TO HELP.

IT'S NOT RIGHT THAT WE ARE PROTECTED IN HERE WHILE PEOPLE NEED HELP OUTSIDE.

WE'LL COME WITH YOU TO HELP.



WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW. I'LL COLLECT ALL THE FOOD I CAN FIND.

IN 1944, MOTHER BECAME THE PRINCIPAL OF ST MARY'S.

THE BRITISH DECIDED TO LEAVE INDIA BUT THEY WERE GOING TO PARTITION IT INTO INDIA AND PAKISTAN. ON 16TH AUGUST 1946, HUGE RIOTS BROKE OUT IN CALCUTTA.



INSIDE THE CONVENT -



THIS IS THE LAST OF OUR FOOD.

I WILL GO OUT AND SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

THE OTHER SISTERS WERE AFRAID MOTHER TERESA WOULD GET HURT, IF SHE WENT OUTSIDE DURING THE RIOTS.

THAT DAY -



HIDE ME, PLEASE, OR THE MOB OUTSIDE WILL KILL ME.

UH!



I'LL DRESS YOUR WOUNDS AND THEN HELP YOU GO HOME.



I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO OUT, MOTHER. IT'S NOT SAFE!

I CANNOT LET OUR 300 CHILDREN STARVE. LET ME GO AND FIND FOOD.

THEY WAITED FOR THE ROAD TO CLEAR.





THE MOB WENT THAT WAY. IF WE GO UP THE OTHER WAY, YOU CAN GET HOME AND I CAN GET FOOD.



THANK YOU! YOU SAVED MY LIFE.



MOTHER FOUND ALL THE SHOPS SHUT. JUST THEN -

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE MOBS ARE ATTACKING EVERYONE THEY SEE. IT'S DANGEROUS!

I CAME LOOKING FOR FOOD. THERE ISN'T ANY LEFT FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE CONVENT.

IT WAS A TRUCK FULL OF BRITISH SOLDIERS.



FOOD CAN WAIT. THIS AREA IS NOT SAFE. GET IN, WE'LL DRIVE YOU HOME.

NO. I CAN'T LET THE ENTIRE CONVENT STARVE!

THE SOLDIERS TRIED TO PERSUADE HER TO GO BACK...



...BUT MOTHER TERESA WAS VERY DETERMINED.

WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF OUR FOOD. NOW WILL YOU GET IN?



SHE GOT IN, SATISFIED.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE CONVENT -

HERE WE ARE. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE VERY BRAVE OR JUST VERY STUBBORN, MOTHER.

BLESS YOU!



PEACE WAS FINALLY RESTORED BUT MOTHER TERESA WAS WEAK AND ILL.

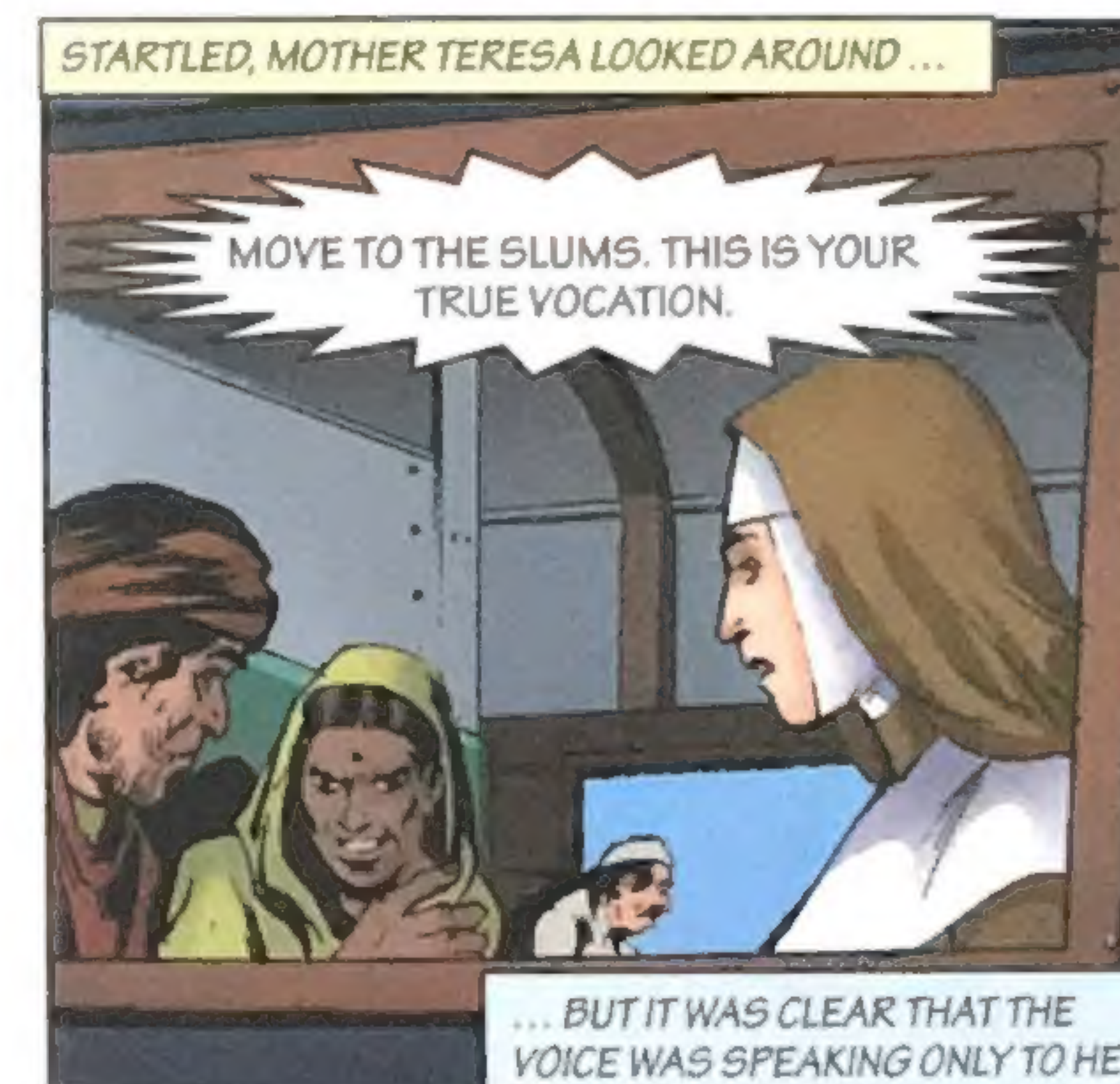
GO TO DARJEELING FOR A FEW WEEKS AND GET SOME REST.



IT WAS ON THE TRAIN TO DARJEELING THAT SHE HEARD A VOICE.



LEAVE THE CONVENT! GIVE UP ITS COMFORT AND SAFETY. FOLLOW ME TO THE SLUMS, AMONG THE POOREST OF THE POOR.



STARTLED, MOTHER TERESA LOOKED AROUND...

MOVE TO THE SLUMS. THIS IS YOUR TRUE VOCATION.

... BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE VOICE WAS SPEAKING ONLY TO HER.



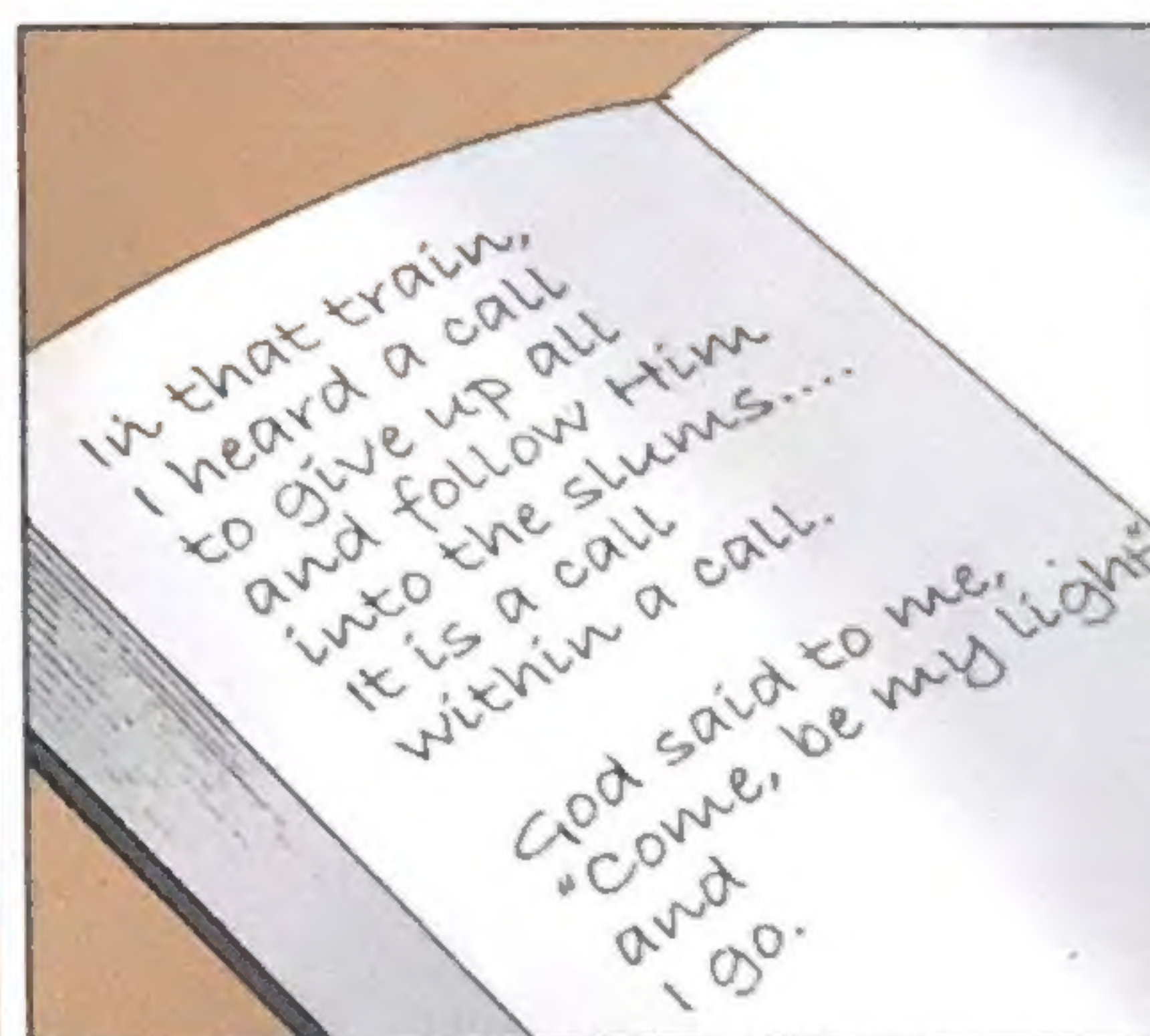
IN DARJEELING -

I HOPE MOTHER TERESA IS ALL RIGHT. USUALLY SHE'S FULL OF JOKES AND SONGS.

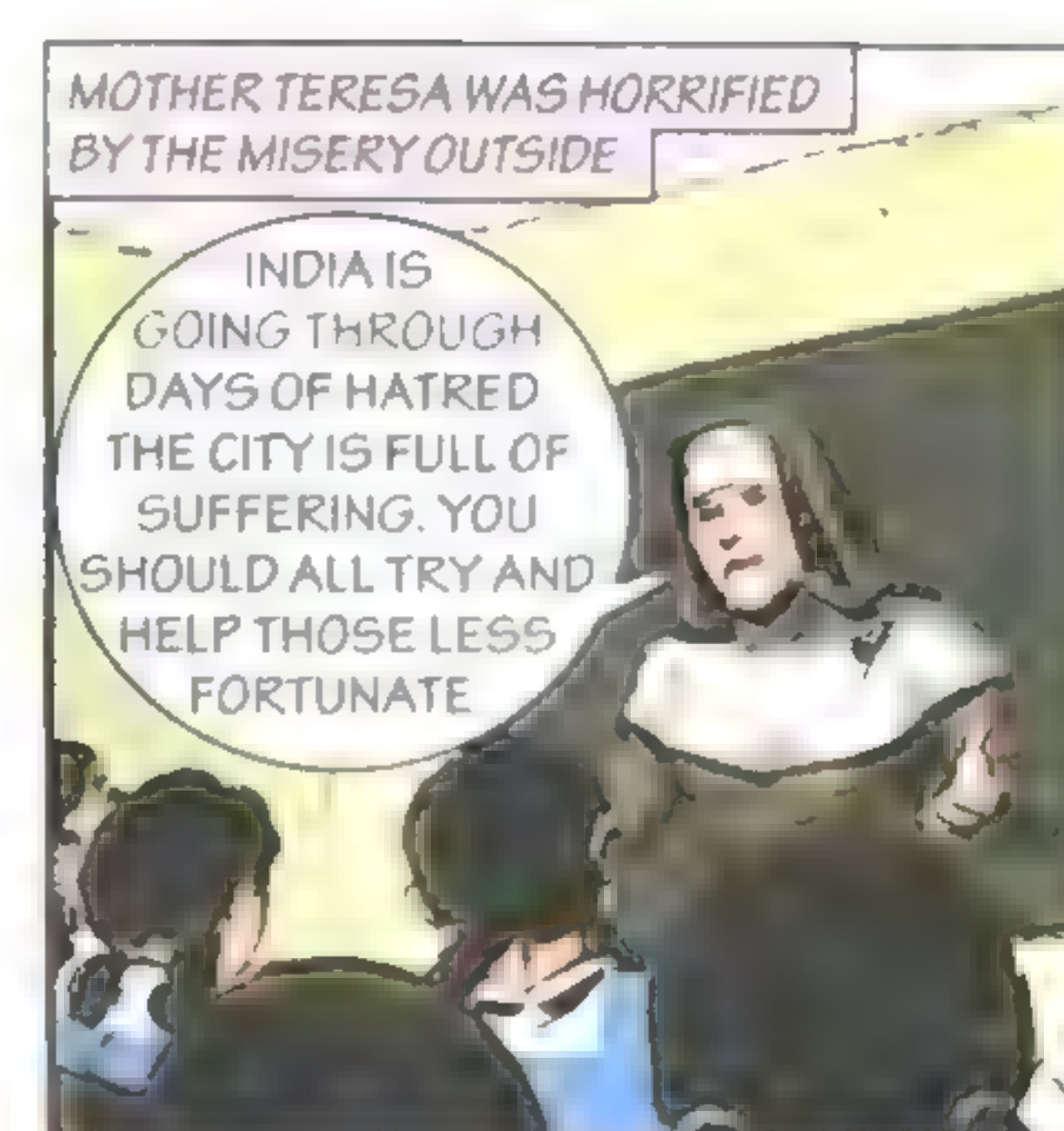
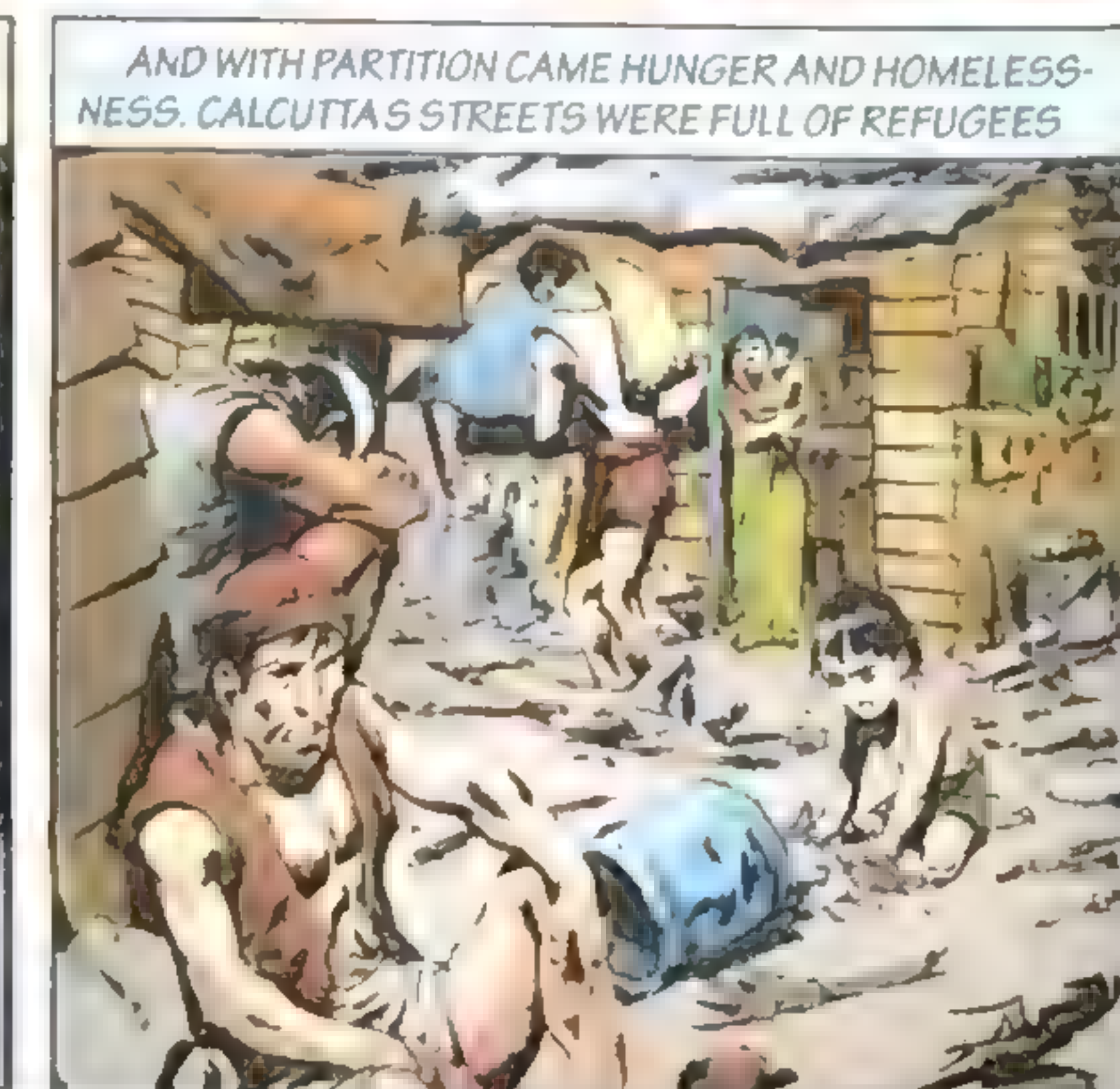
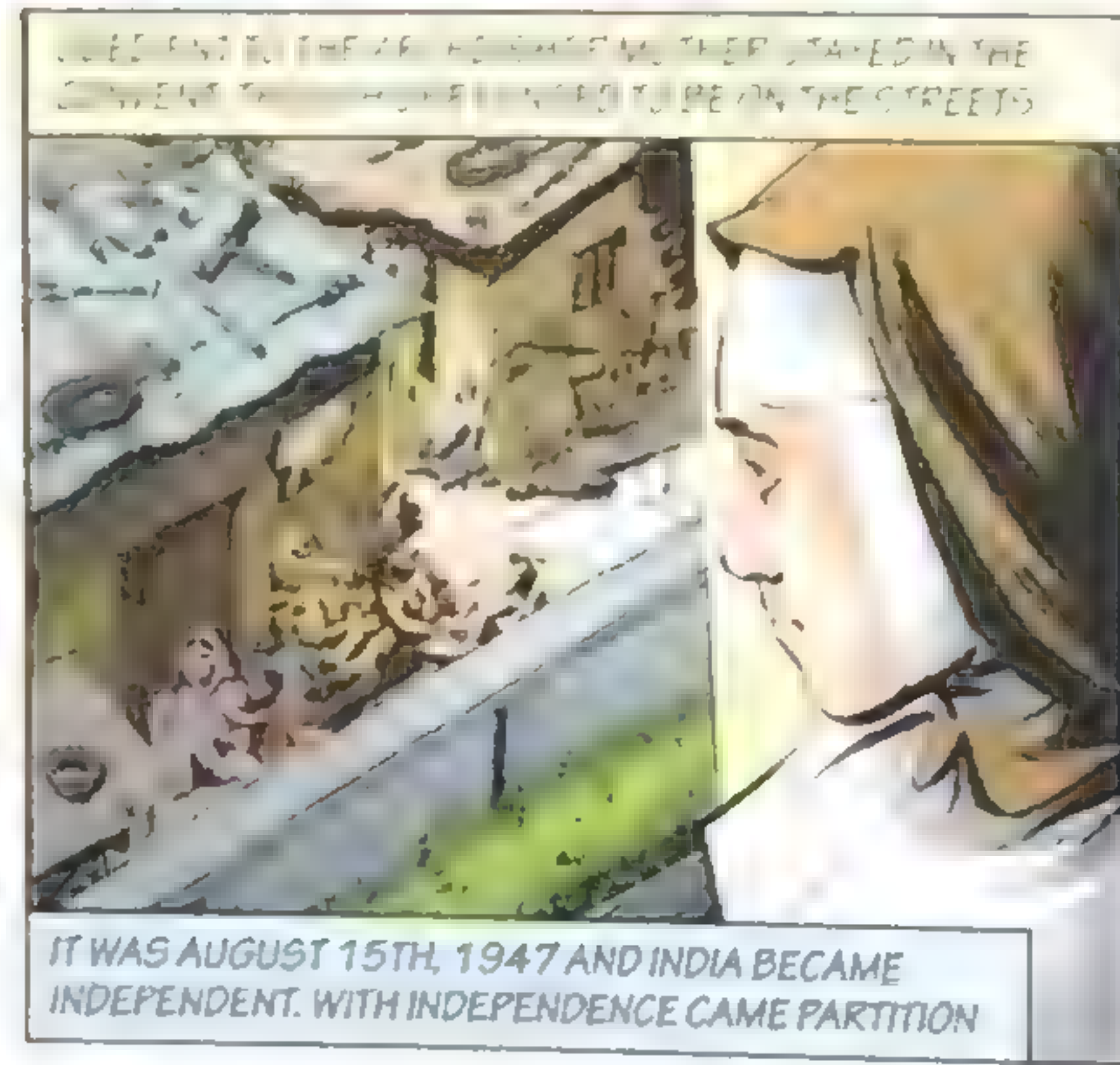
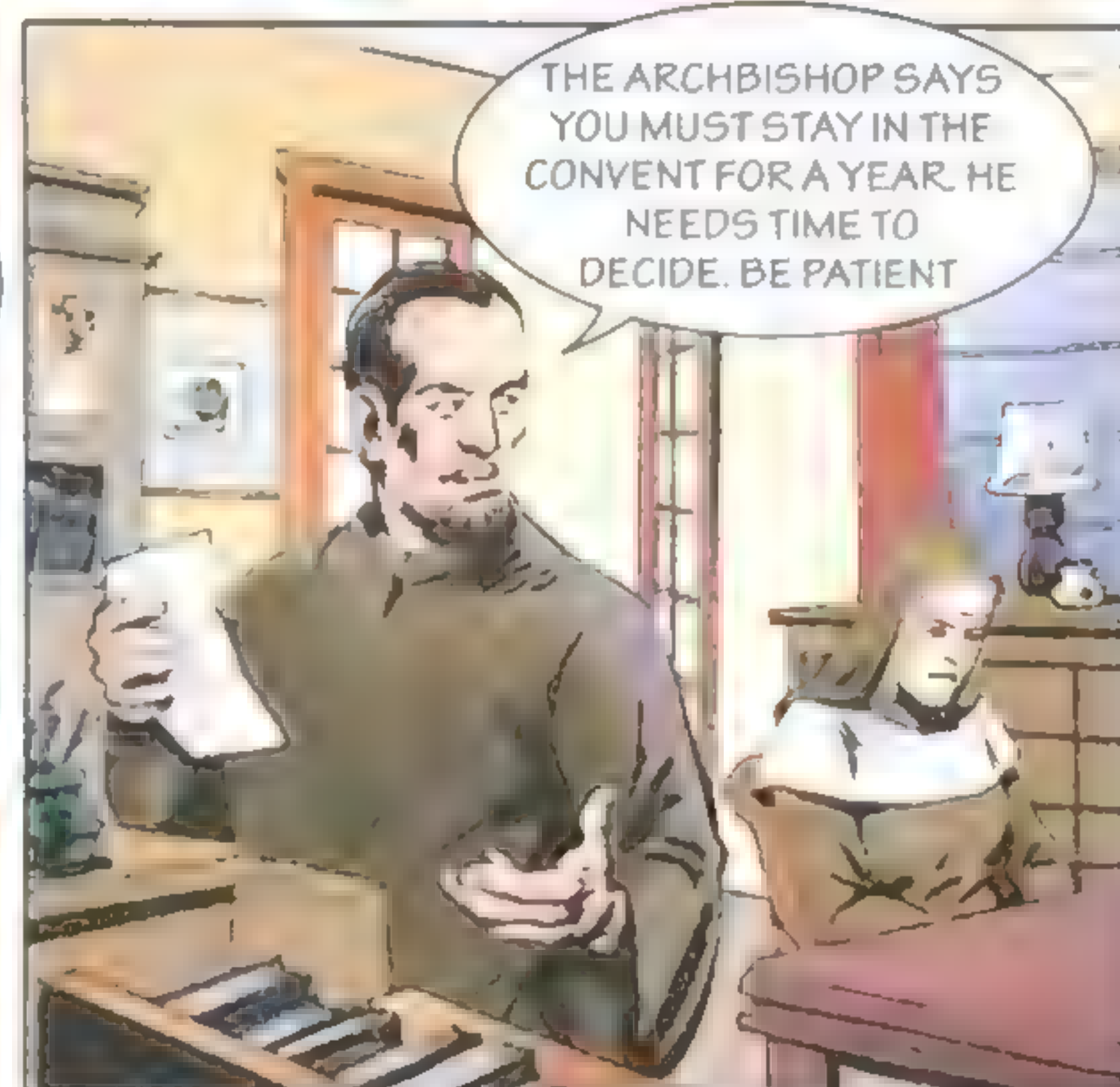
SHE HAS BEEN VERY QUIET. SHE JUST SITS AND WRITES ALL THE TIME!

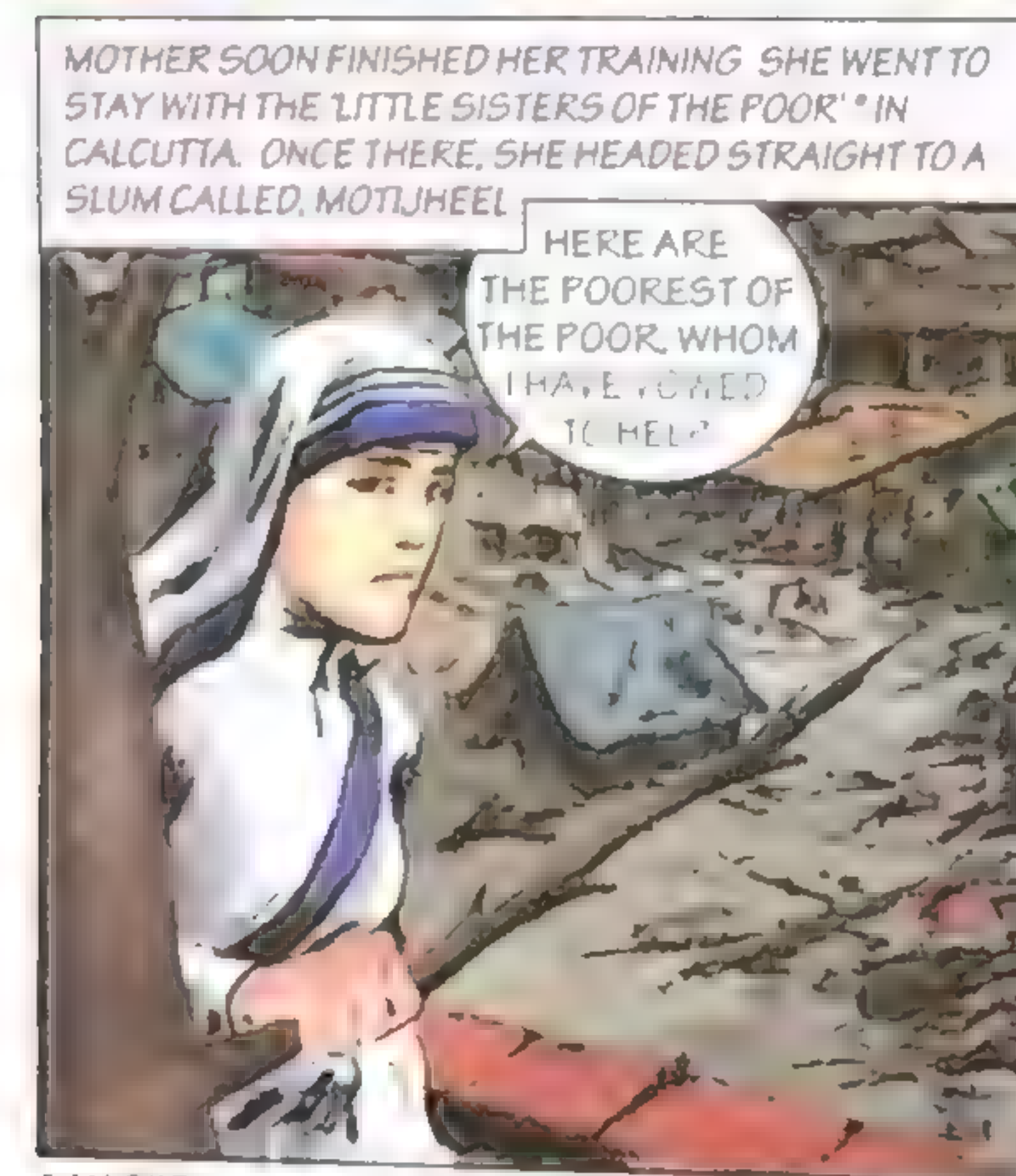
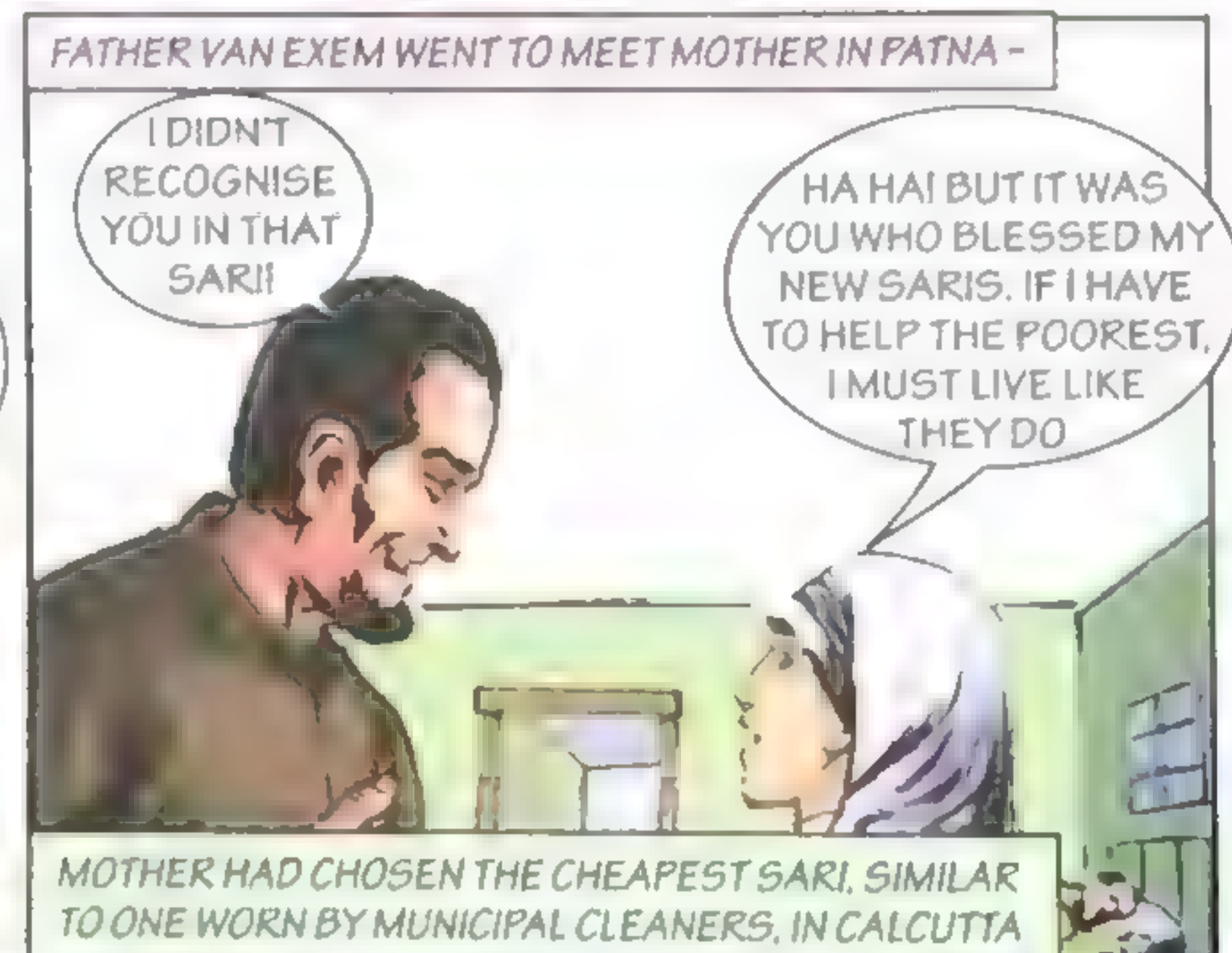
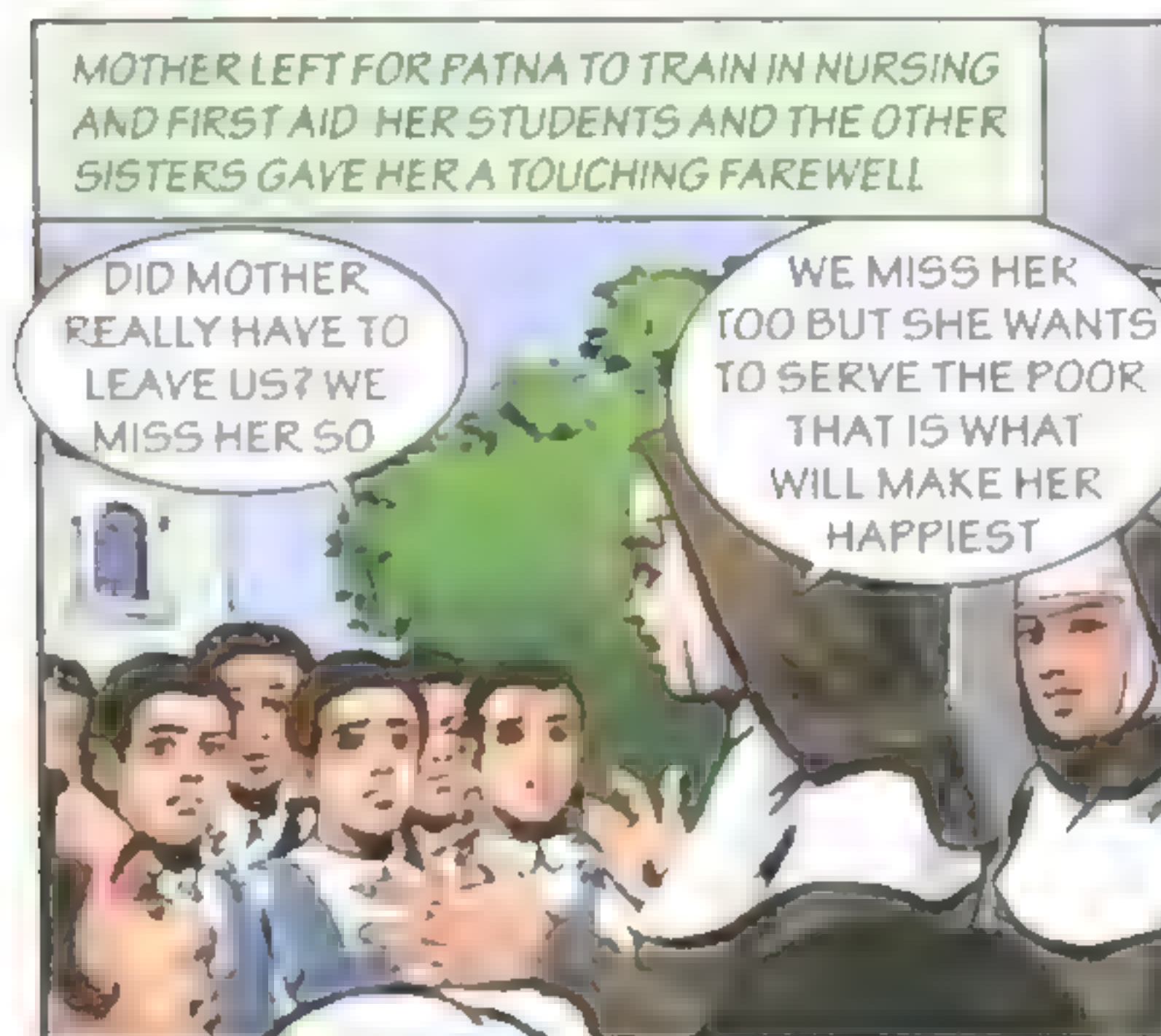
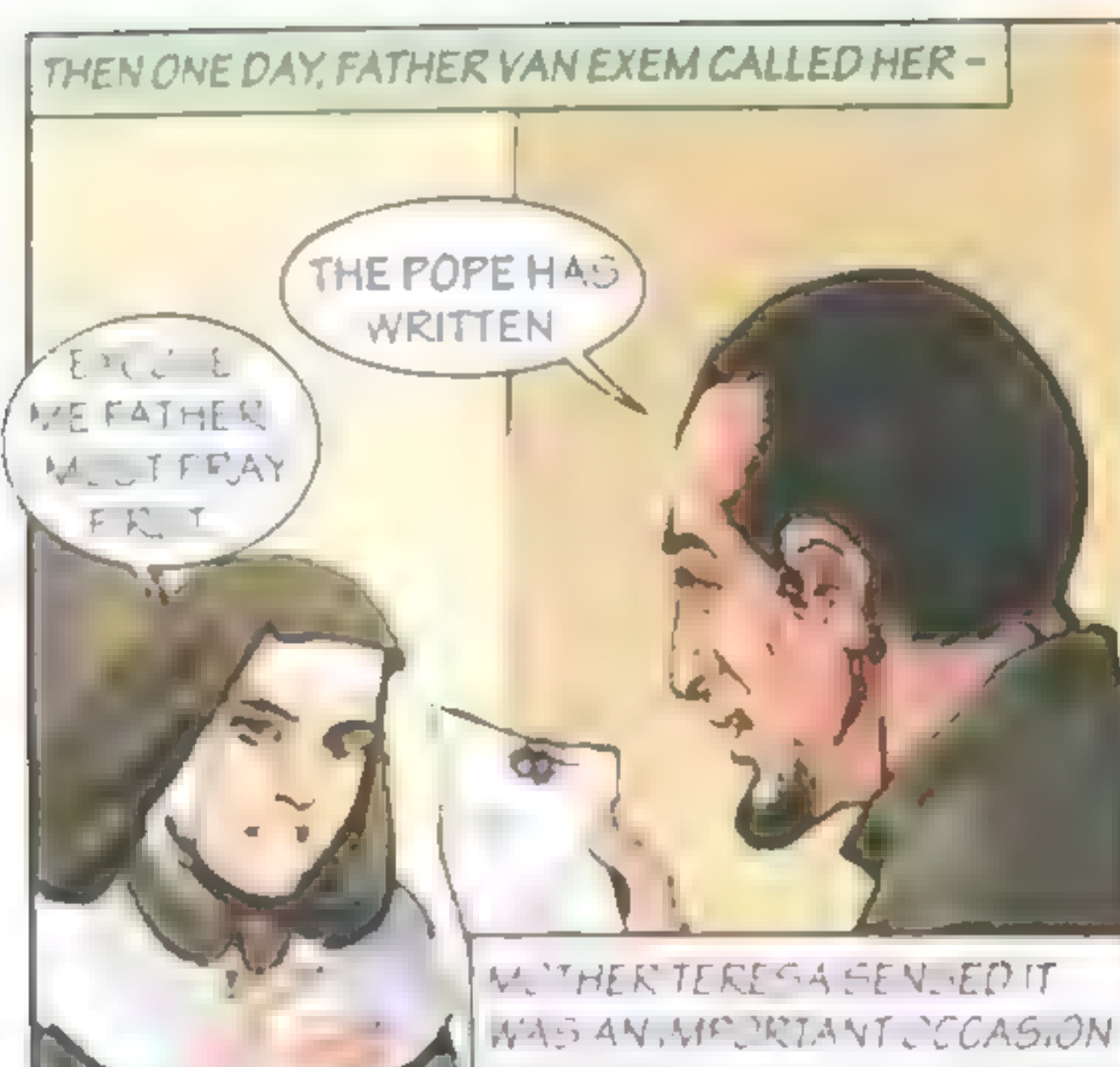


MOTHER TERESA WAS COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN HER NEW IDEA -



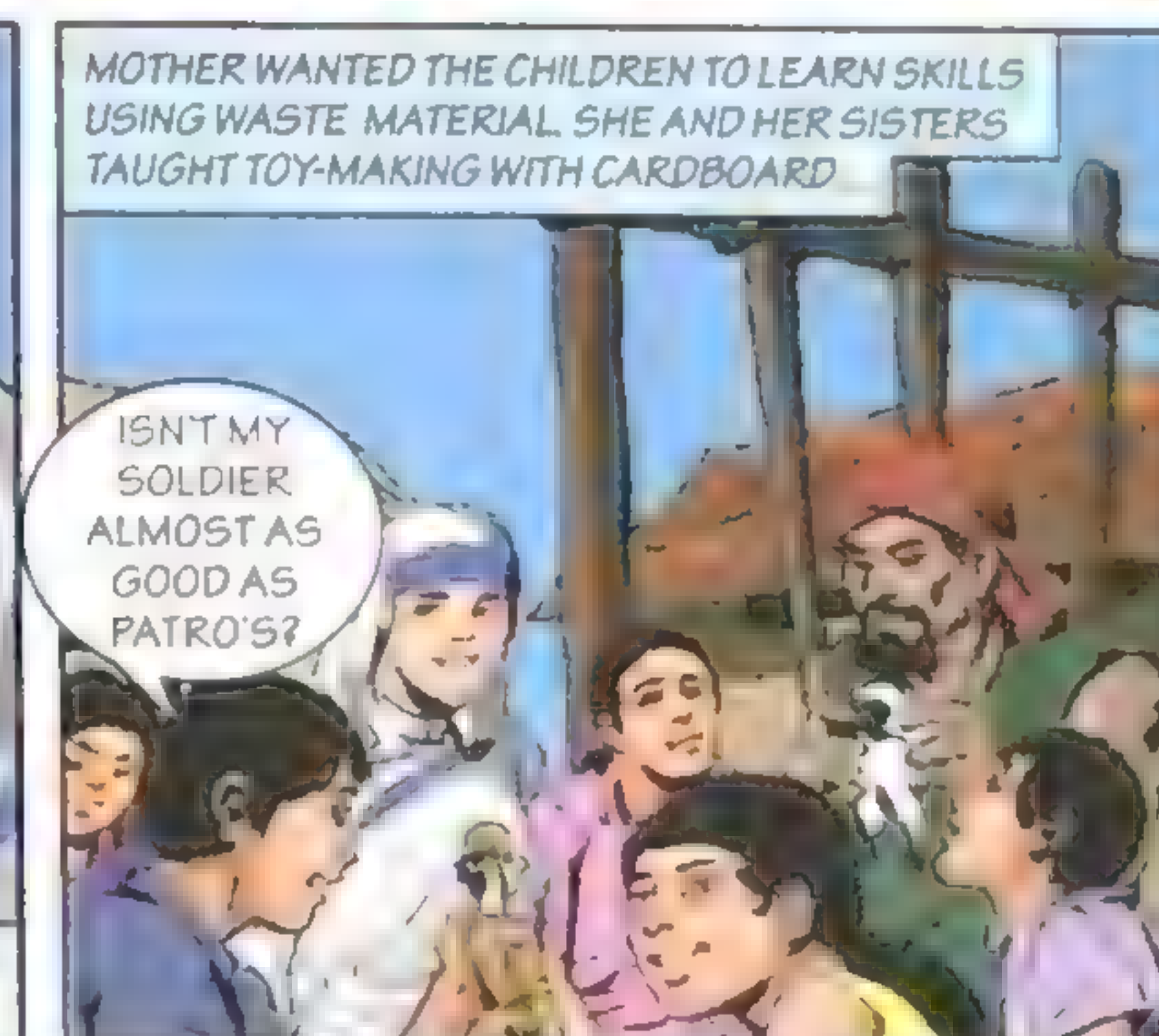
In that train, I heard a call to give up all and follow Him into the slums.... It is a call within a call. God said to me, "Come, be my light" and I go.

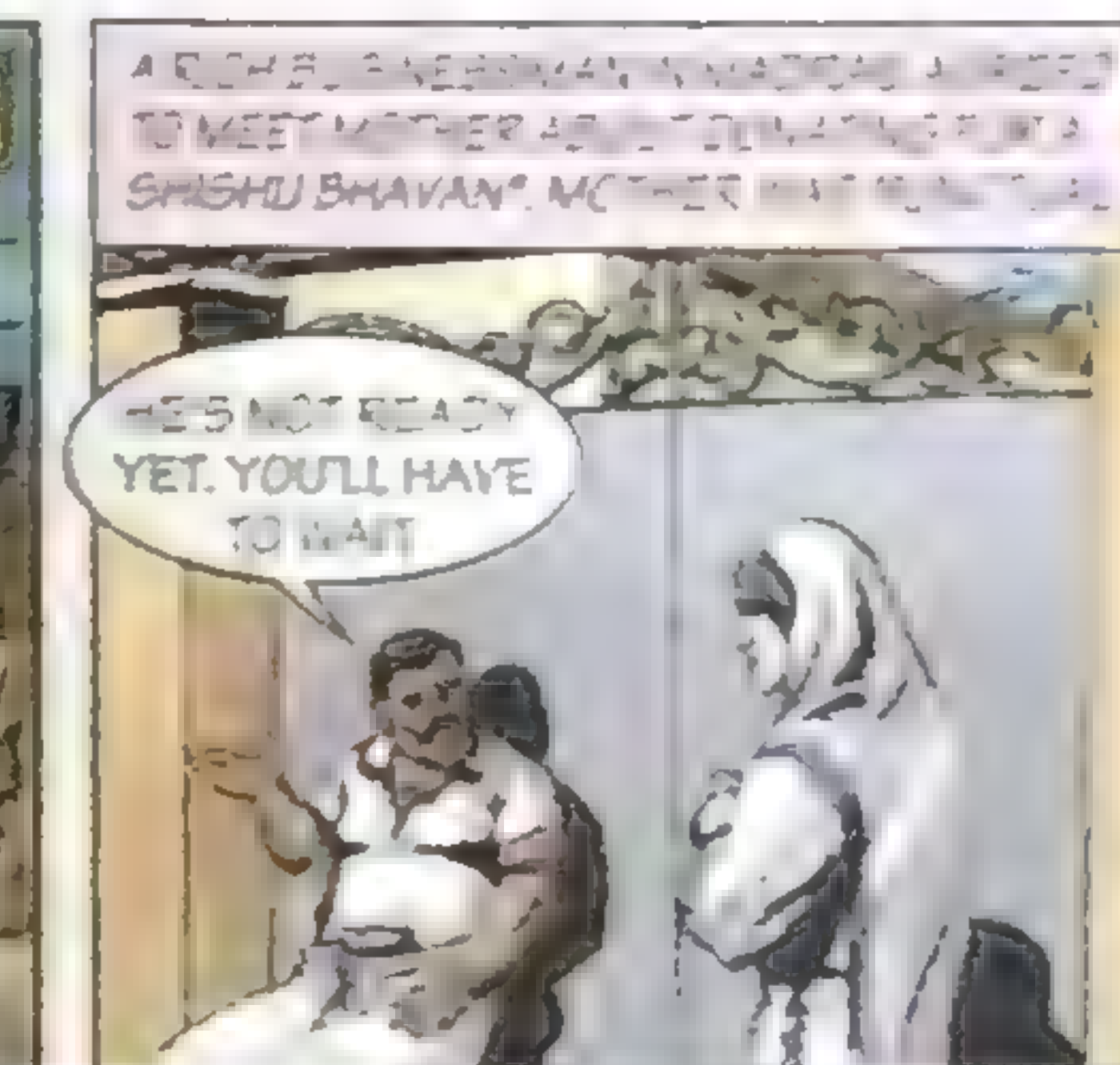
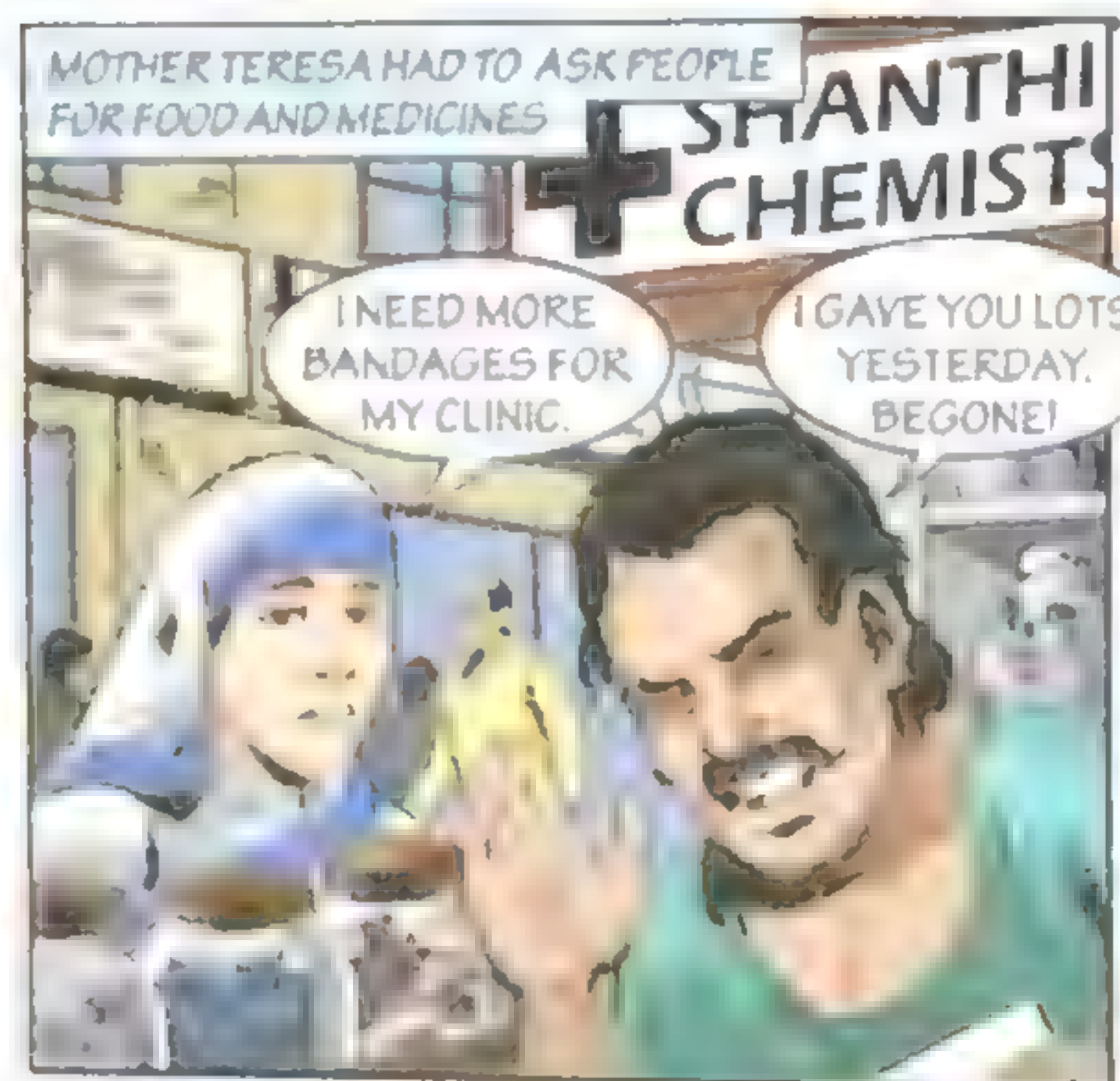
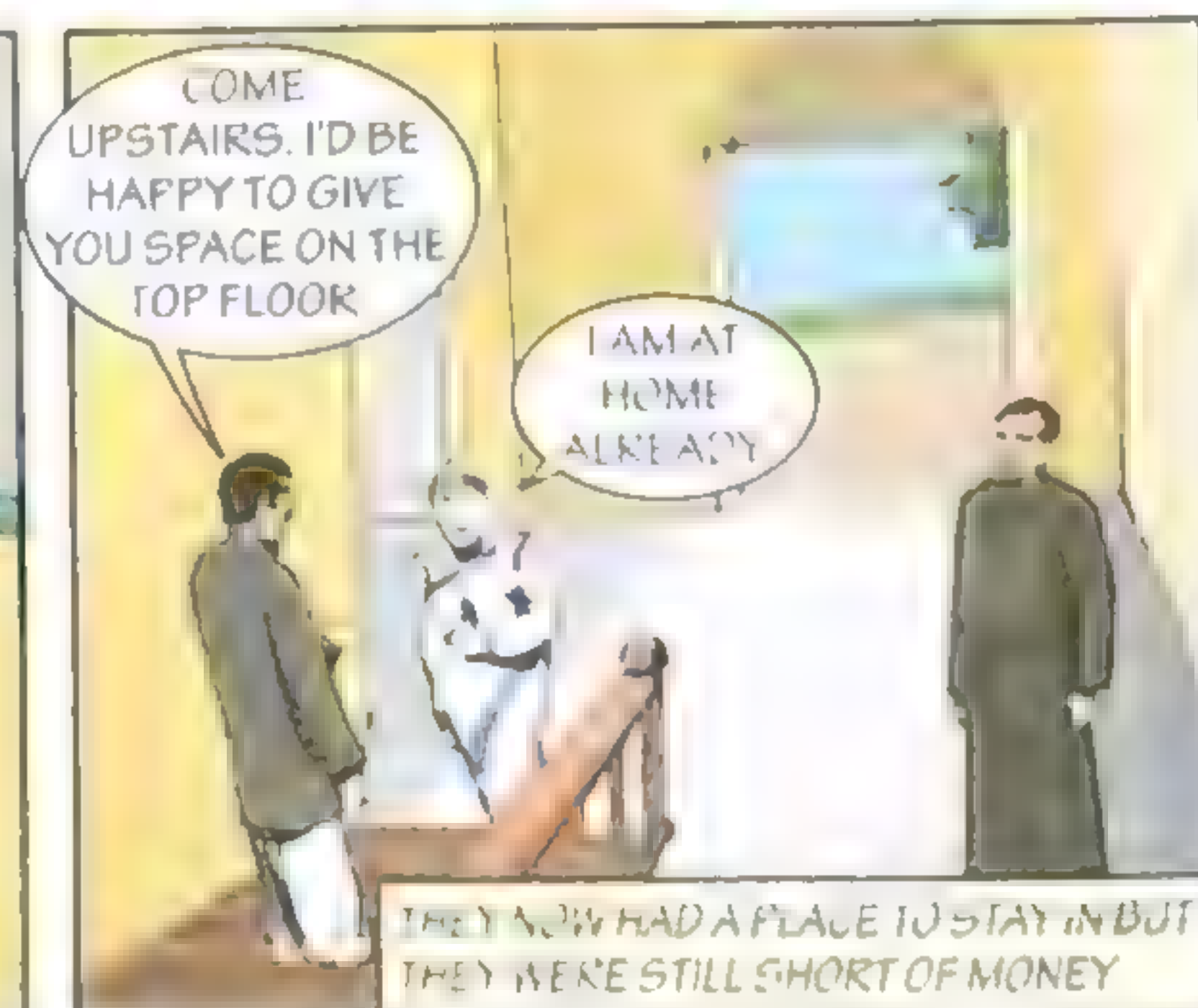
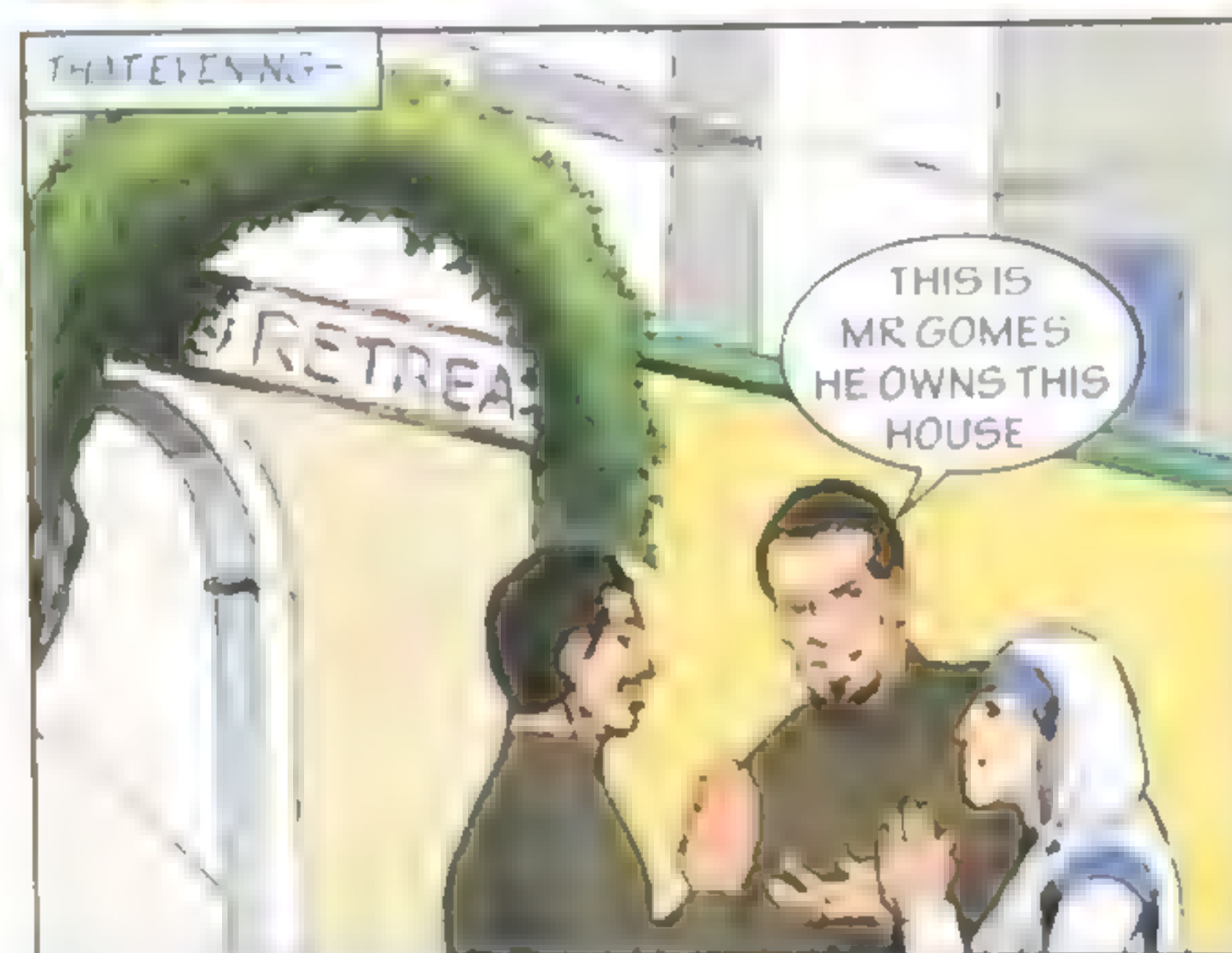




*AN ORDER OF NUNS

**THE FIRST LETTERS OF THE BENGALI ALPHABET.





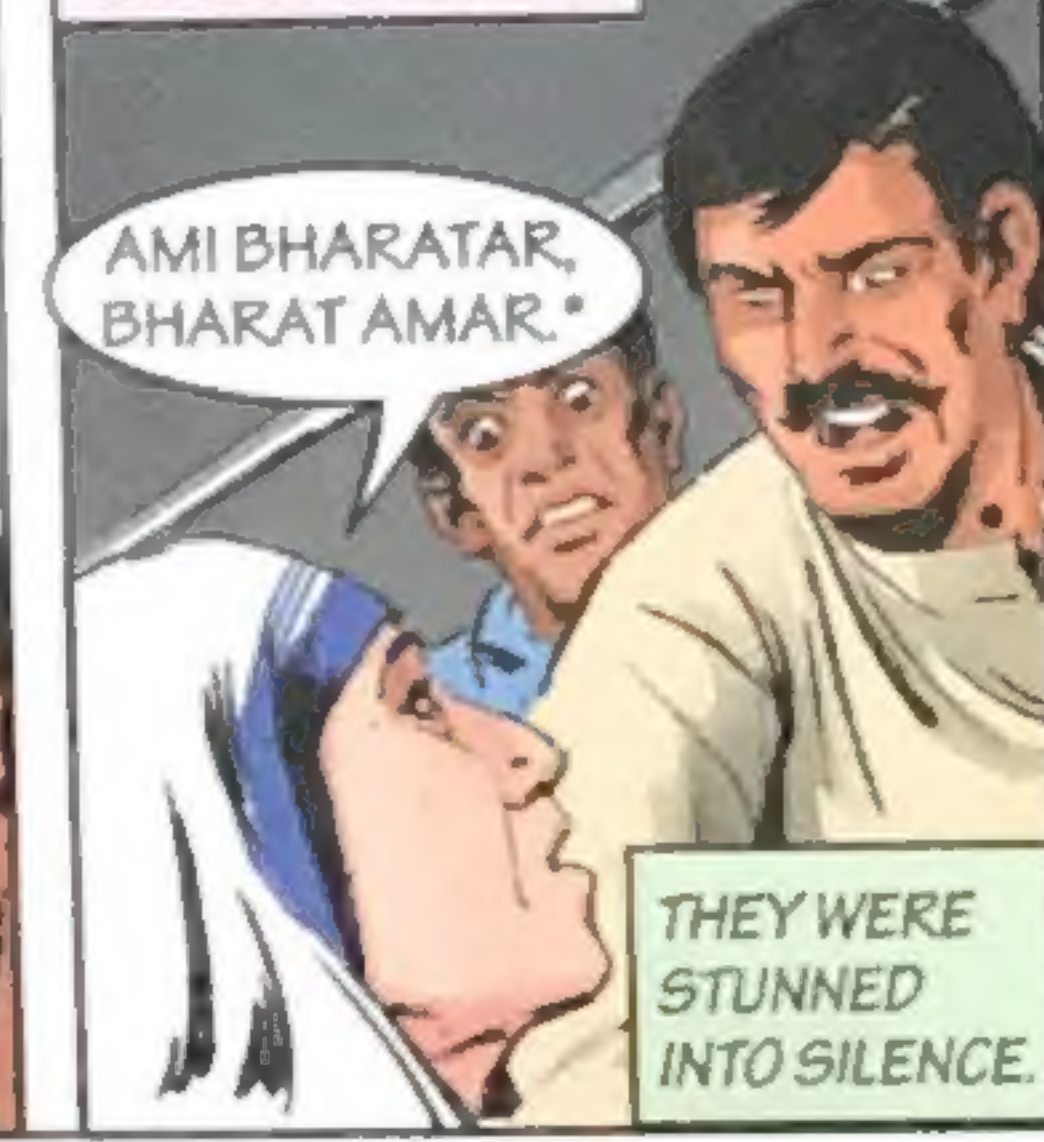
EVEN WITH MONEY, IT WAS NOT EASY. PEOPLE WERE SUSPICIOUS. THEY SPOKE IN FRONT OF HER, THINKING SHE DID NOT UNDERSTAND BENGALI.



NO, THEY WANT TO TAKE OUR MONEY AWAY.



FINALLY, MOTHER SPOKE TO THEM IN BENGALI -



A YEAR HAD PASSED, AND THE CHURCH HAD LET MOTHER TERESA START A NEW ORDER, THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY. THEIR MAIN BUILDING WAS NAMED 'MOTHER HOUSE'.



SISTER AGNES TRAINED AS A TEACHER...



... AND SISTER GERTRUDE AS A DOCTOR ON HER FIRST DAY -



*I AM INDIAN AND INDIA IS MINE.

THE NEXT DAY, THE MAN WAS MUCH BETTER.



FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE CURED, MOTHER STARTED A HOSPICE IN KALIGHAT, IN A PLACE GIVEN TO HER BY THE GOVERNMENT. SHE CALLED IT NIRMAL HRIDAY, WHICH MEANS 'PURE HEART'.



NEXT DOOR WAS A KALI TEMPLE. THE PRIESTS THERE WERE VERY ANGRY WITH MOTHER.



THEN ONE OF THE PRIESTS FELL INCURABLY ILL.



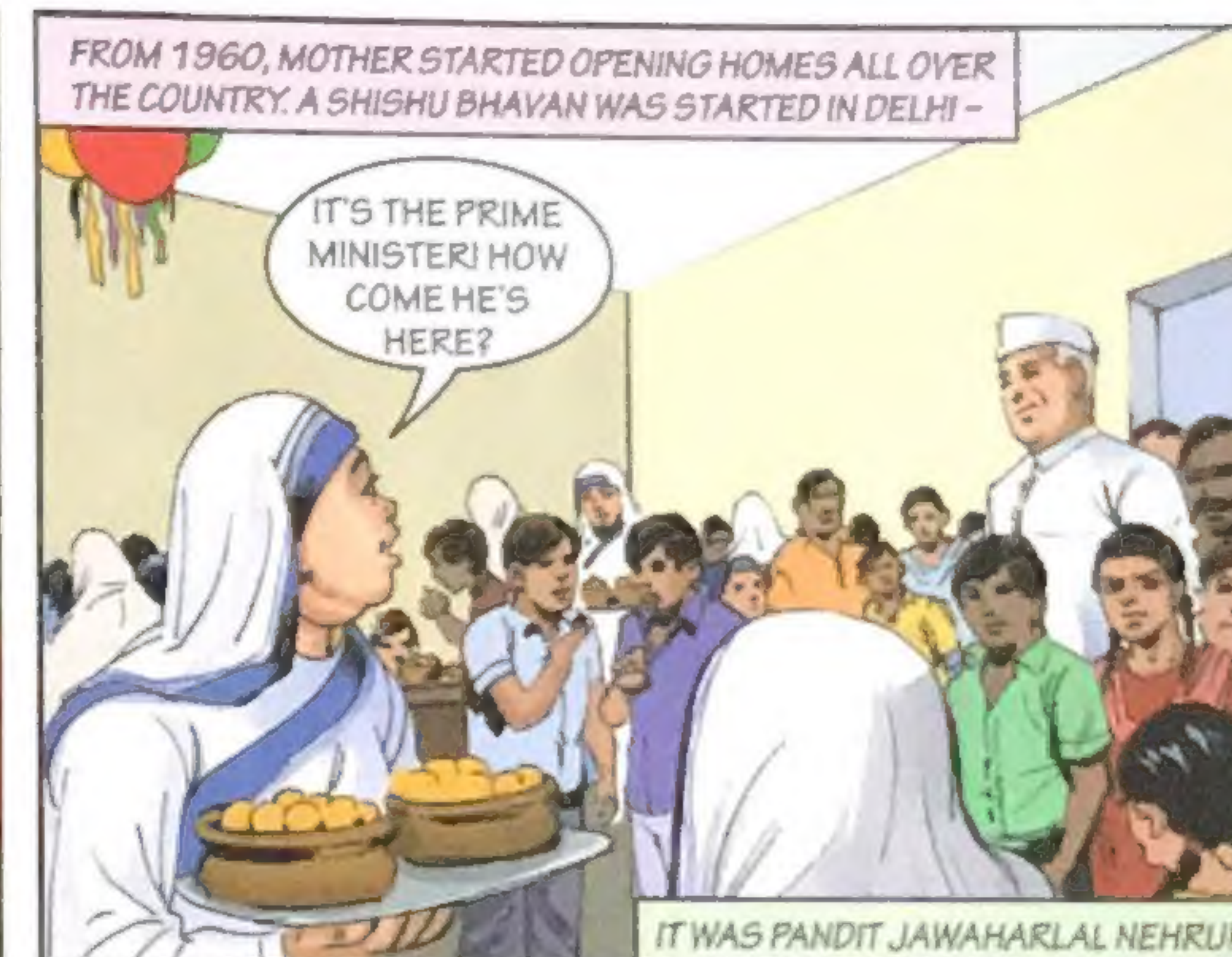
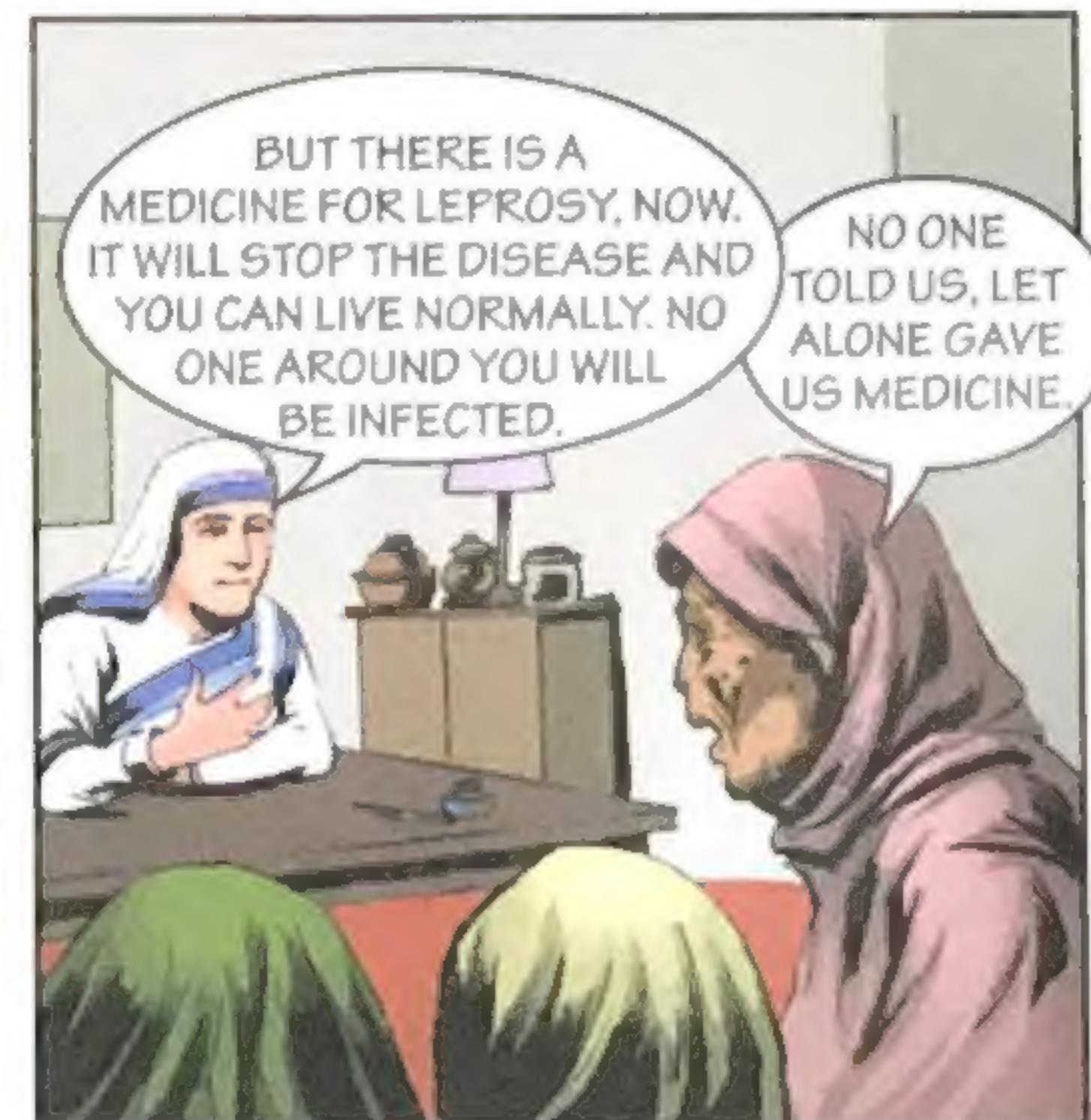
SHE TOOK HIM TO NIRMAL HRIDAY. A FEW DAYS LATER -



*TB, OR TUBERCULOSIS, IS A CURABLE DISEASE NOW.



SHE HAD WON THEIR RESPECT.





THERE WAS NEVER ANY RESPIRE FROM POVERTY AND SUFFERING.

I NEED A STRETCHER HERE!



I HOPE YOU'RE MORE COMFORTABLE NOW.

I HAVE LIVED LIKE AN ANIMAL BUT NOW I'LL DIE LIKE AN ANGEL!

MOTHER BELIEVED THAT BY TENDING THE SICK AND THE SUFFERING, SHE WAS SERVING JESUS CHRIST.

BY NOW, MOTHER'S WORK WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN 1979, SHE WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.



LOVE BEGINS AT HOME. I LEARN THAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN...



"...ONE DAY, I HEARD OF A STARVING FAMILY. I TOOK SOME FOOD AND WENT IMMEDIATELY. THEIR FACES WERE SHINING WITH HUNGER..."

HERE IS SOME RICE FOR YOU ALL.



"...THE LADY DIVIDED THE RICE INTO TWO BOWLS. THEN SHE LEFT WITH ONE OF THE BOWLS."

I'LL JUST BE BACK, MOTHER.



"...I WAS PUZZLED. WHEN SHE RETURNED -"

WHERE DID YOU GO?

MY NEIGHBOURS WERE ALSO HUNGRY. I GAVE THEM SOME FOOD.



SHE WAS STARVING, BUT FELT FOR HER NEIGHBOUR'S HUNGER. THIS IS LOVE. HOW CAN WE BE ANY LESS?

THE NEXT YEAR SHE GOT INDIA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD, THE BHARAT RATNA.



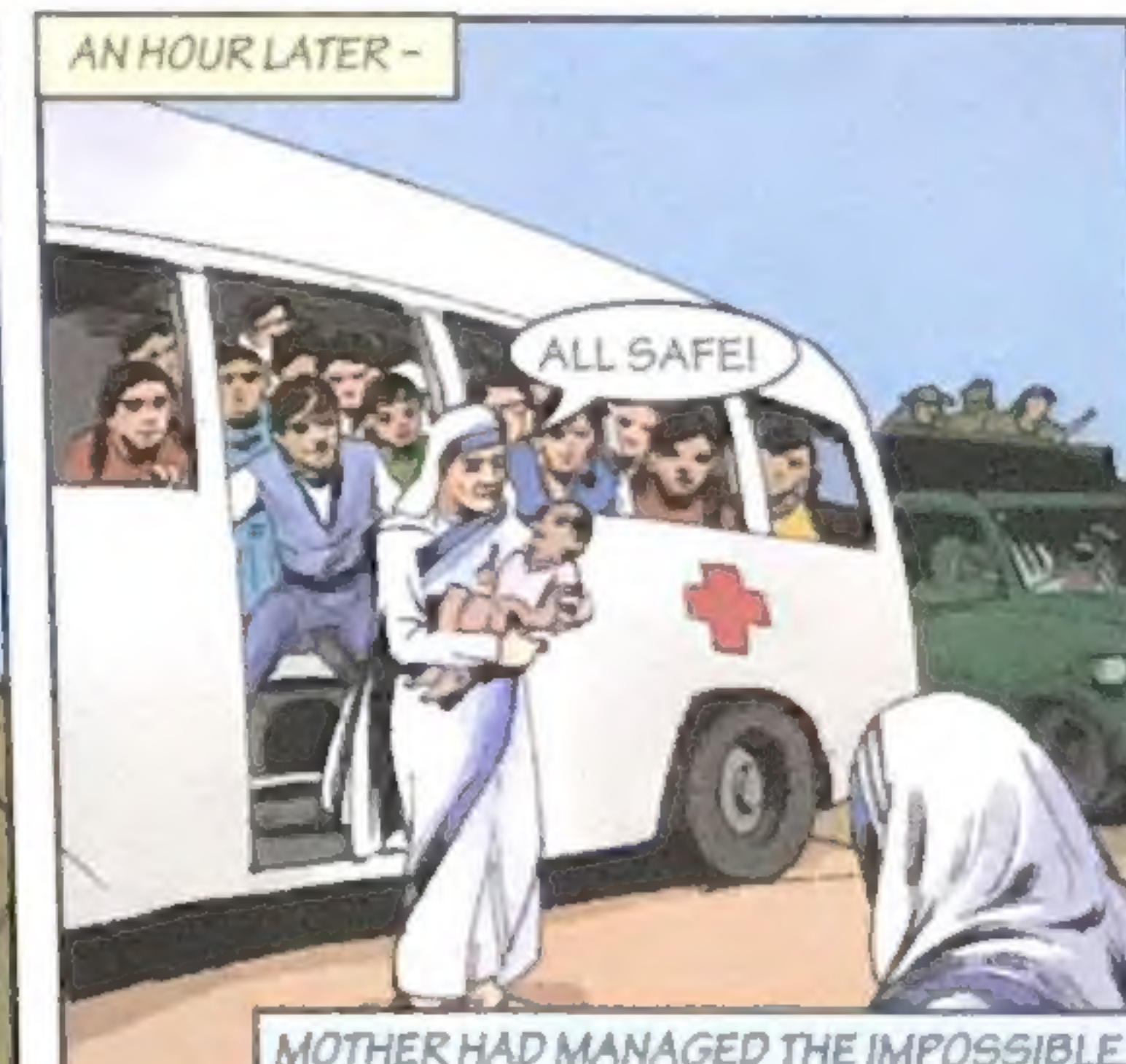
OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, MOTHER TERESA AND HER SISTERS WENT ALL OVER THE WORLD DOING WHAT THEY COULD TO EASE SUFFERING.

1982. THE BEIRUT WAR. STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WAR WAS A SMALL HOSPITAL WITH 37 CHILDREN IN IT. THE CHILDREN WERE MENTALLY CHALLENGED. THEY HAD NO FOOD OR WATER.



THIS IS A WAR. YOU CAN'T JUST WANDER IN THERE.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A LULL IN THE FIRING. I MUST GET THOSE CHILDREN OUT.



AN HOUR LATER -

ALL SAFE!

MOTHER HAD MANAGED THE IMPOSSIBLE.

BUT HER HARD LIFE WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE ITS TOLL ON HER BODY. A YEAR LATER, IN ROME -



* A DEVICE TO HELP THE HEART BEAT NORMALLY.



YOU HAD A HEART ATTACK. THE PACEMAKER* I'VE PUT IN WILL HELP. I ADVISE YOU TO REST.

I CAN'T. I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO.

DESPITE HER WEAK HEALTH, MOTHER CONTINUED TO TRAVEL AND WORK AS BEFORE.

BY 1997, MOTHER TERESA WAS VERY ILL.

I'M OLD AND ILL NOW. I CAN'T WORK AS WELL AS I USED TO. YOU MUST LET ME STEP DOWN AS HEAD OF THE ORDER.



MOTHER RESIGNED AND THE ORDER ELECTED SISTER NIRMALA AS THE NEW HEAD.

I AM SO HAPPY! MAY GOD'S BLESSINGS ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

I WILL SERVE THE ORDER, BUT NO ONE CAN REPLACE YOU AS MOTHER.



A FEW MONTHS LATER, ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, JUST AFTER FREE INDIA HAD TURNED 50 YEARS OLD, MOTHER TERESA PASSED AWAY. SHE WAS GIVEN A STATE FUNERAL WITH FULL HONOURS.



IN HER LIFETIME, MOTHER HAD SET UP 610 MISSIONS IN 123 COUNTRIES - THESE INCLUDED HOSPICES, ORPHANAGES, SOUP KITCHENS, SCHOOLS, AND HOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS, LEPROSY AND TB. SHE IS NOW OFFICIALLY CALLED "BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA," AND THE CHURCH IS IN THE PROCESS OF DECLARING HER A SAINT.

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